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PLATO

VIII



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# PLATO

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION

VIII

CHARMIDES      ALCIBIADES I AND II  
HIPPARCHUS      THE LOVERS  
THEAGES      MINOS      EPINOMIS

BY

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## PREFACE

THE Greek text in this volume is based on the recension of Schanz, except in the cases of the *Minos* and the *Epinomis*, where it follows in the main the text of C F. Hermann. Emendations accepted from modern scholars are noted as they occur.

The special introductions are intended merely to prepare the reader for the general character and purpose of each dialogue.

W. R. M. LAMB.



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## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

PLATO was born in 427 B.C. of Athenian parents who could provide him with the best education of the day, and ample means and leisure throughout his life. He came to manhood in the dismal close of the Peloponnesian War, when Aristophanes was at the height of his success, and Sophocles and Euripides had produced their last plays. As a boy he doubtless heard the lectures of Gorgias, Protagoras, and other sophists, and his early bent seems to have been towards poetry. But his intelligence was too progressive to rest in the agnostic position on which the sophistic culture was based. A century before, Heracleitus had declared knowledge to be impossible, because the objects of sense are continually changing; yet now a certain Cratylus was trying to build a theory of knowledge over the assertion of flux, by developing some hints let fall by its oracular author about the truth contained in names. From this influence Plato passed into contact with Socrates, whose character and gifts have left a singular impress on the thought of mankind. This effect is almost wholly due to Plato's applications and extensions of

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his master's thought ; since, fortunately for us, the pupil not only became a teacher in his turn, but brought his artistic genius into play, and composed the memorials of philosophic talk which we know as the Dialogues. Xenophon, Antisthenes, and Aeschines were other disciples of Socrates who drew similar sketches of his teaching : the suggestion came from the " mimes " of the Syracusan Sophron, —realistic studies of conversation between ordinary types of character. As Plato became more engrossed in the Socratic speculations, this artistic impulse was strengthened by the desire of recording each definite stage of thought as a basis for new discussion and advance.

When Plato was twenty years old, Socrates was over sixty, and had long been notorious in Athens for his peculiar kind of sophistry. In the *Phaedo* he tells how he tried, in his youth, the current scientific explanations of the universe, and found them full of puzzles. He then met with the theory of Anaxagoras,—that the cause of everything is " mind." This was more promising : but it led nowhere after all, since it failed to rise above the conception of physical energy ; this " mind " showed no intelligent aim. Disappointed of an assurance that the universe works for the best, Socrates betook himself to the plan of making *definitions* of " beautiful," " good," " large," and so on, as qualities observed in the several classes of beautiful, good and large material things, and then employing these propositions, if they

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appeared to be sound, for the erection of higher hypotheses. The point is that he made a new science out of a recognized theory of "ideas" or "forms," which had come of reflecting on the quality predicated when we say "this man is good," and which postulates some sure reality behind the fleeting objects of sense. His "hypothetical" method, familiar to mathematicians, attains its full reach and significance in the *Republic*.

The Pythagoreans who appear in the intimate scene of the *Phaedo* were accustomed to the theory of ideas, and were a fit audience for the highest reasonings of Socrates on the true nature of life and the soul. For some years before the master's death (399 B.C.) Plato, if not a member of their circle, was often a spell-bound hearer of the "satyr." But ordinary Athenians had other views of Socrates, which varied according to their age and the extent of their acquaintance with him. Aristophanes' burlesque in the *Clouds* (423 B.C.) had left a common impression not unlike what we have of the King of Laputa. Yet the young men who had any frequent speech with him in his later years, while they felt there was something uncanny about him, found an irresistible attraction in his simple manner, his humorous insight into their ways and thoughts, and his fervent eloquence on the principles of their actions and careers. He kept no school, and took no fees; he distrusted the pretensions of the regular sophists, with whom he was carelessly confounded; moreover, he professed

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to have no knowledge himself, except so far as to know that he was ignorant. The earliest Dialogues, such as the *Apology*, *Crito*, *Euthyphro*, *Charmides*, *Laches*, and *Lysis*, show the manner in which he performed his ministry. In rousing men, especially those whose minds were fresh, to the need of knowing themselves, he promoted the authority of the intellect, the law of definite individual knowledge, above all reason of state or tie of party; and it is not surprising that his city, in the effort of recovering her political strength, decided to hush such an inconvenient voice. He must have foreseen his fate, but he continued his work undeterred.

Though he seems, in his usual talk, to have professed no positive doctrine, there were one or two beliefs which he frequently declared. Virtue, he said, is knowledge; for each man's good is his happiness, and once he knows it clearly, he needs must choose to ensue it. Further, this knowledge is innate in our minds, and we only need to have it awakened and exercised by "dialectic," or a systematic course of question and answer. He also believed his mission to be divinely ordained, and asserted that his own actions were guided at times by the prohibitions of a "spiritual sign." He was capable, as we find in the *Symposium*, of standing in rapt meditation at any moment for some time, and once for as long as twenty-four hours.

It is clear that, if he claimed no comprehensive theory of existence, and although his ethical reliance



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on knowledge, if he never analysed it, leaves him in a very crude stage of psychology, his logical and mystical suggestions must have led his favourite pupils a good way towards a new system of metaphysics. These intimates learnt, as they steeped their minds in his, and felt the growth of a unique affection amid the glow of enlightenment, that happiness may be elsewhere than in our dealings with the material world, and that the mind has prerogatives and duties far above the sphere of civic life.

After the death of Socrates in 399, Plato spent some twelve years in study and travel. For the first part of this time he was perhaps at Megara, where Eucleides, his fellow-student and friend, was forming a school of dialectic. Here he may have composed some of the six Dialogues already mentioned as recording Socrates' activity in Athens. Towards and probably beyond the end of this period, in order to present the Socratic method in bolder conflict with sophistic education, he wrote the *Protagoras*, *Meno*, *Euthydemus*, and *Gorgias*. These works show a much greater command of dramatic and literary art, and a deeper interest in logic. The last of them may well be later than 387, the year in which, after an all but disastrous attempt to better the mind of Dionysius of Syracuse, he returned to Athens, and, now forty years of age, founded the Academy ; where the memory of his master was to be perpetuated by continuing and expanding the

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Socratic discussions among the elect of the new generation. The rivalry of this private college with the professional school of Isocrates is discernible in the subject and tone of the *Gorgias*. Plato carried on the direction of the Academy till his death, at eighty-one, in 346; save that half-way through this period (367) he accepted the invitation of his friend Dion to undertake the instruction of the younger Dionysius at Syracuse. The elder tyrant had been annoyed by the Socratic freedom of Plato's talk: now it was a wayward youth who refused the yoke of a systematic training. What that training was like we see in the *Republic*, where true political wisdom is approached by an arduous ascent through mathematics, logic, and metaphysics. Plato returned, with less hopes of obtaining the ideal ruler, to make wonderful conquests in the realm of thought.

The *Meno* and *Gorgias* set forth the doctrine that knowledge of right is latent in our minds: dialectic, not the rhetoric of the schools, is the means of eliciting it. The method, as Plato soon perceived, must be long and difficult: but he felt a mystical rapture over its certainty, which led him to picture the immutable "forms" as existing in a world of their own. This feeling, and the conviction whence it springs—that knowledge is somehow possible, had come to the front of his mind when he began to know Socrates. Two brilliant compositions, the *Cratylus* and *Symposium*, display the strength of the conviction, and then, the noble fervour of the

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feeling. In the latter of these works, the highest powers of imaginative sympathy and eloquence are summoned to unveil the sacred vision of absolute beauty. The *Phaedo* turns the logical theory upon the soul, which is seen to enjoy, when freed from the body, familiar cognition of the eternal types of being. Here Orphic dogma lends its aid to the Socratic search for knowledge, while we behold an inspiring picture of the philosopher in his hour of death.

With increasing confidence in himself as the successor of Socrates, Plato next undertook, in the *Republic*, to show the master meeting his own unsatisfied queries on education and politics. We read now of a "form" of good to which all thought and action aspire, and which, contemplated in itself, will explain not merely why justice is better than injustice, but the meaning and aim of everything. In order that man may be fully understood, we are to view him "writ large" in the organization of an ideal state. The scheme of description opens out into many subsidiary topics, including three great proposals already known to Greece,—the abolition of private property, the community of women and children, and the civic equality of the sexes. But the central subject is the preparation of the philosopher, through a series of ancillary sciences, for dialectic; so that, once possessed of the supreme truth, he may have light for directing his fellow-men. As in the *Phaedo*, the spell of mythical revelation is

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brought to enhance the discourse of reason. The *Phaedrus* takes up the subject of rhetoric, to lead us allegorically into the realm of "ideas," and thence to point out a new rhetoric, worthy of the well-trained dialectician. We get also a glimpse of the philosopher's duty of investigating the mutual relations of the "forms" to which his study of particular things has led him.

A closer interest in logical method, appearing through his delight in imaginative construction, is one distinctive mark of this middle stage in Plato's teaching. As he passes to the next two Dialogues, the *Theaetetus* and *Parmenides*, he puts off the aesthetic rapture, and considers the ideas as categories of thought which require co-ordination. The discussion of knowledge in the former makes it evident that the Academy was now the meeting-place of vigorous minds, some of which were eager to urge or hear refuted the doctrines they had learnt from other schools of thought; while the arguments are conducted with a critical caution very different from the brilliant and often hasty zeal of Socrates. The *Parmenides* corrects an actual or possible misconception of the theory of ideas in the domain of logic, showing perhaps how Aristotle, now a youthful disciple of Plato, found fault with the theory as he understood it. The forms are viewed in the light of the necessities of thought: knowledge is to be attained by a careful practice which will raise our minds to the vision of all parti-

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culars in their rightly distinguished and connected classes.

Plato is here at work on his own great problem :— If what we know is a single permanent law under which a multitude of things are ranged, what is the link between the one and the many? The *Sophist* contains some of his ripest thought on this increasingly urgent question : his confident advance beyond Socratic teaching is indicated by the literary form, which hardly disguises the continuous exposition of a lecture. We observe an attention to physical science, the association of soul, motion, and existence, and the comparative study of being and not-being. The *Politicus* returns to the topic of state-government, and carries on the process of acquiring perfect notions of reality by the classification of things. Perhaps we should see in the absolute “mean” which is posited as the standard of all arts, business, and conduct, a contribution from Aristotle. The *Philebus*, in dealing with pleasure and knowledge, dwells further on the correct division and classification required if our reason, as it surely must, is to apprehend truth. The method is becoming more thorough and more complex, and Plato’s hope of bringing it to completion is more remote. But he is gaining a clearer insight into the problem of unity and plurality.

The magnificent myth of the *Timaeus*, related by a Pythagorean, describes the structure of the universe, so as to show how the One manifests

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itself as the Many. We have here the latest reflections of Plato on 'space, time, soul, and many physical matters. In the lengthy treatise of the *Laws*, he addresses himself to the final duty of the philosopher as announced in the *Republic*: a long habituation to abstract thought will qualify rather than disqualify him for the practical regulation of public and private affairs. Attention is fixed once more on soul, as the energy of the world and the vehicle of our sovereign reason.

Thus Plato maintains the fixity of the objects of knowledge in a great variety of studies, which enlarge the compass of Socrates' teaching till it embraces enough material for complete systems of logic and metaphysics. How far these systems were actually worked out in the discussions of the Academy we can only surmise from the Dialogues themselves and a careful comparison of Aristotle; whose writings, however, have come down to us in a much less perfect state. But it seems probable that, to the end, Plato was too fertile in thought to rest content with one authoritative body of doctrine. We may be able to detect in the *Timæus* a tendency to view numbers as the real principles of things; and we may conjecture a late-found interest in the physical complexion of the world. As a true artist, with a keen sense of the beauty and stir of life, Plato had this interest, in a notable degree, throughout: but in speaking of his enthusiasm for science we must regard him rather as a great inventor of

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sciences than as what we should now call a scientist. This is giving him a splendid name, which few men have earned. Some of his inventions may be unrealizable, but it is hard to find one that is certainly futile. There are flaws in his arguments: to state them clearly and fairly is to win the privilege of taking part in a discussion at the Academy.

W. R. M. LAMB.

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[NOTE.—*Each of the Dialogues is a self-contained whole. The order in which they have been mentioned in this Introduction is that which agrees best in the main with modern views of Plato's mental progress, though the succession in some instances is uncertain.*]

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# CHARMIDES



## INTRODUCTION TO THE *CHARMIDES*

THE subject of this dialogue is the virtue whose various aspects we may approach in English with the words "temperance," "sobriety," "moderation," or "discretion," but for which our language, after centuries of analysis and definition have narrowed the application of ethical terms, has now no constant equivalent. The first of these words, "temperance," has been used throughout the present translation; but it is necessary to note that the intellectual element in the Greek virtue of "temperance" is not only recognizable from the beginning of the conversation, but increasingly prominent as the argument proceeds. The Greeks always tended to regard a moral quality as a state of the reasoning mind; and Socrates' particular treatment of "temperance" in this discussion implies that he and his circle were even inclined to identify it with a kind of practical wisdom or prudence.<sup>1</sup> An attentive reader will find no difficulty in perceiving the salient features of "temperance"—a distinct understanding of it as a whole is just what the speakers themselves are seeking—at each turn of the conversation.

<sup>1</sup> σωφροσύνη, indeed, though it came to mean something like our "temperance," originally meant "soundness of mind," "wholeness or health of the faculty of thought (*φρονεῖν*)."

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The handsome youth Charmides, whom Socrates meets in a wrestling-school at the beginning of the Peloponnesian War (432 B.C.), traces his descent through his father Glaucon to Dropides, a friend and kinsman of Solon ; his mother was a sister of Pyrilampes, who was noted for his stature and beauty. Critias, son of Glaucon's brother Callaeschrus, and thus first cousin to Charmides, is a man of mature age, for he appears as his cousin's guardian : he became famous, or rather infamous, later on as one of the Thirty Tyrants ; and together with Charmides he fell fighting for despotism against democracy in 404 B.C. But of these grim and dismal doings, which filled Plato (then a youth of twenty-three) with a horror of Athenian politics as conceived and conducted at that time, there is no hint in this brilliant scene of healthful training and ingenuous debate. Plato's own mother, Perictione, was Charmides' sister, and he seems to record here with unmixed pride the goodly connexions of his family, from the standpoint of that earlier time of his childhood. He chooses his uncle Charmides as offering a likely instance, in the flower of his youth, of a healthy, well-conditioned mind in a handsome, well-developed body.

As soon as Socrates catches sight of the youth, he is fired with admiration of his grace. But the serious interest of Socrates is fixed, as ever, on the mind of this attractive person, and he proceeds at once to question him on the state of his "soul" and the nature of that "temperance" which is necessary for the well-being of the whole human organism. Two suggestions of Charmides — that temperance is a quiet or sedate kind of conduct,

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and that it is a feeling of modesty—are in turn disproved by Socrates ; a third definition, supported by and apparently derived from Critias—that it is doing one's own business—leads Socrates to insist, in his habitual way, on the importance of *knowing* what one is doing, with the result that Critias gives a fourth definition—self-knowledge (164-5). Socrates tries to find out what exactly is the thing known by means of temperance, and so procured by it, as health is by medicine and buildings by architecture. Critias replies that temperance is distinguished from all other kinds of knowledge by being the science of all the sciences, including itself (166). But Socrates shows the difficulty of conceiving of any function or faculty as applied to itself ; it seems to require some separate object (168-9). He doubts, therefore, if there can be such cognition of cognition ; and even supposing this is possible, how about cognition of non-cognition, which was a part of the suggested nature of temperance (169) ? But altogether this view of the matter is too aridly intellectual, and of no practical value, for it fails to include a knowledge of what will be beneficial or useful (172-3). We find that what we really require is a knowledge of good and evil (174), and it does not appear that temperance is anything like this at all. In the end, we are not only left without a satisfactory answer to our question, but have rashly hazarded some improbable statements by the way.

Such is the bare outline of this interesting, if inconclusive, discussion. Plato's main object in composing the dialogue was to exhibit and recommend the process of attaining, or endeavouring to

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attain, a clear notion of an ordinary moral quality ; and as the difficulties accumulate, he takes the opportunity of enforcing his master's tenet that all human virtue and well-being must be based on knowledge. Our curiosity is first started in one direction, and then whetted and turned in another. The seemingly profitless search is so conducted that we are drawn, as audience of the little drama, to partake in a clarifying exercise of the mind, and we come away eager to analyse and refine our moral ideals. The need of understanding and co-ordinating the fundamental conceptions and conventions of society is the dominant theme of Plato's earlier writings : the scene and subject of each conversation are in effect quite casual, and the efforts of the speakers have no relation to what they may have said yesterday or may say to-morrow.

Thus the suggestion (161 c), that temperance is "doing one's own business," is treated here as a puzzling riddle, and is lightly dismissed with some unfair play with the scope of the word "doing" : whereas this very suggestion is seriously advanced in the *Republic* (433, 496, 550) as a definition of justice. In the same way "self-knowledge" (another definition of temperance) is here pronounced to be impossible, and even if possible, useless (166) : but elsewhere we often find Plato insisting, with earnest eloquence, on the necessity and high value of self-knowledge. In the *Charmides*, however, Socrates does not stay to develop that familiar theme : for the moment he is only concerned to point out a difficulty involved in the suggestion as applied to temperance. Where he does come to an expectant pause, and hints at the

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right direction for further progress in the search, is in the demand for a cognition of good and evil (174), although this happens to be outside the supposed limits of temperance. The train of reasoning here is briefly this: granted that knowledge must be a main constituent of the virtue of temperance, such knowledge cannot merely act or revolve upon itself; it must have relation to some external sphere, and what we require is a knowledge of good and evil in the ends or aims of our conduct, superior to any particular knowledge or science pursued in our ordinary practical life. This division of sciences into the theoretical and the practical is resumed in the *Gorgias*. It is only just mentioned here, and so far "the good" is nothing more august or important than the Socratic conception of "the useful."

We may perhaps regret that in disposing of Charmides' first suggestion Socrates commits the logical blunder of arguing that, because temperance and quickness are both honourable, therefore quickness is temperate (159 D). No doubt Charmides' failure to protest at this point was brought out in discussion at the Academy. Plato would perhaps excuse himself by saying that when he wrote the *Charmides* he was more intent on intellectual drama than on logical accuracy. He has certainly displayed remarkable skill in bringing out the two characters of Charmides and Critias in the natural course of the conversation; and it is worth observing, besides, how the vividness of his portraiture serves to emphasize, by contrast, the impersonal, dispassionate nature of reason and truth (166 C, 175 D).

# ΧΑΡΜΙΔΗΣ

[Η ΠΕΡΙ ΣΩΦΡΟΣΤΗΝΗΣ· ΠΕΙΡΑΣΤΙΚΟΣ]

ΤΑ ΤΟΥΤ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ, ΧΑΙΡΕΦΩΝ, ΚΡΙΤΙΑΣ, ΧΑΡΜΙΔΗΣ

St. II  
p. 153

Ἦκομεν τῇ προτεραίᾳ ἐσπέρας ἐκ Ποτειδαίας ἀπὸ τοῦ στρατοπέδου, οἷον δὲ διὰ χρόνου ἀφιγμένος ἄσμένως ἦα ἐπὶ τὰς συνήθεις διατριβάς. καὶ δὴ καὶ εἰς τὴν Ταυρέου παλαίστραν τὴν καταντικρὺ τοῦ τῆς Βασίλης ἱεροῦ εἰσῆλθον, καὶ αὐτόθι κατέλαβον πάνυ πολλούς, τοὺς μὲν καὶ ἀγνώτας ἐμοί, τοὺς δὲ πλείστους γνωρίμους. καὶ με ὡς Β εἶδον εἰσιόντα ἐξ ἀπροσδοκίτου, εὐθύς πόρρωθεν ἠσπάζοντο ἄλλος ἄλλοθεν. Χαιρεφῶν δέ, ἄτε καὶ μανικὸς ὢν, ἀναπηδήσας ἐκ μέσων ἔθει πρὸς με, καὶ μου λαβόμενος τῆς χειρός, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἦ δ' ὅς, πῶς ἐσώθης ἐκ τῆς μάχης; ὀλίγον δὲ πρὶν ἡμᾶς ἀπιέναι μάχη ἐγεγόνει ἐν τῇ Ποτειδαίᾳ, ἣν ἄρτι ἦσαν οἱ τῆδε πεπυσμένοι.

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<sup>1</sup> A Corinthian colony in Chalcidice which was a tributary ally of Athens, and revolted from her in 433 B.C. In the next year an Athenian force met and fought a Peloponnesian force at Potidaea, and then laid siege to the city. Thus began the Peloponnesian War.



# CHARMIDES

[OR ON TEMPERANCE : TENTATIVE]

## CHARACTERS

SOCRATES, CHAEREPHON, CRITIAS, CHARMIDES

WE arrived yesterday evening from the army at Potidaea,<sup>1</sup> and I sought with delight, after an absence of some time, my wonted conversations. Accordingly I went into the wrestling-school of Taureas,<sup>2</sup> opposite the Queen's shrine,<sup>3</sup> and there I came upon quite a number of people, some of whom were unknown to me, but most of whom I knew. And as soon as they saw me appear thus unexpectedly, they hailed me from a distance on every side ; but Chaerephon, like the mad creature that he is, jumped up from their midst and ran to me, and grasping me by the hand—

Socrates, he said, how did you survive the battle ? (Shortly before we came away there had been a battle at Potidaea, of which the people here had only just had news.)

<sup>2</sup> A professional trainer.

<sup>3</sup> There was a shrine of Basile, or the Queen (of whom nothing is known), some way to the south of the Acropolis. Cf. Frazer, *Pausanias*, ii. p. 203.

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Καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς αὐτὸν ἀποκρινόμενος, Οὕτωςί, ἔφην, ὡς σὺ ὄρας.

Καὶ μὴν ἠγγελαί γε δεῦρο, ἔφη, ἢ τε μάχη πάνυ C ἰσχυρὰ γεγονέναι καὶ ἐν αὐτῇ πολλοὺς τῶν γνωρίμων τεθνάναι.

Καὶ ἐπιεικῶς, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἀληθῆ ἀπήγγελαί.

Παρεγένου μὲν, ἦ δ' ὅς, τῇ μάχῃ;

Παρεγενόμενην.

Δεῦρο δὴ, ἔφη, καθεζόμενος ἡμῖν διήγησαι· οὐ γάρ τί πω πάντα σαφῶς πεπύσμεθα. καὶ ἄμα με καθίζει ἄγων παρὰ Κριτίαν τὸν Καλλαίσχρου. παρακαθεζόμενος οὖν ἠσπαζόμενην τὸν τε Κριτίαν καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους, καὶ διηγούμην αὐτοῖς τὰ ἀπὸ στρατοπέδου, ὃ τι μέ τις ἀνέροιτο· ἠρώτων δὲ ἄλλος ἄλλο.

D Ἐπειδὴ δὲ τῶν τοιούτων ἄδην εἶχομεν, αὖθις ἐγὼ αὐτοὺς ἀνηρώτων τὰ τῆδε, περὶ φιλοσοφίας ὅπως ἔχοι τὰ νῦν, περὶ τε τῶν νέων, εἴ τινες ἐν αὐτοῖς διαφέροντες ἢ σοφία ἢ κάλλει ἢ ἀμφοτέροις ἐγγεγονότες εἶεν. καὶ ὁ Κριτίας ἀποβλέψας πρὸς 154 τὴν θύραν, ἰδὼν τινας νεανίσκους εἰσιόντας καὶ λαιδορομένους ἀλλήλοις καὶ ἄλλον ὄχλον ὀπισθεν ἐπόμενον, Περὶ μὲν τῶν καλῶν, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, αὐτίκα μοι δοκεῖς εἶσεσθαι· οὗτοι γὰρ τυγχάνουσιν οἱ εἰσιόντες πρόδρομοί τε καὶ ἐρασταὶ ὄντες τοῦ δοκοῦντος καλλίστου εἶναι τά γε δὴ νῦν· φαίνεται δέ μοι καὶ αὐτὸς ἐγγὺς ἤδη που εἶναι προσιών.

Ἔστι δέ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, τίς τε καὶ τοῦ;

Οἶσθά που σύ γε, ἔφη, ἀλλ' οὐπω ἐν ἡλικία ἦν πρὶν σε ἀπιέναι, Χαρμίδην τὸν τοῦ Γλαύκωνος τοῦ B ἡμετέρου θείου υἱόν, ἐμὸν δὲ ἀνεψιόν.

Οἶδα μέντοι νῆ Δία, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· οὐ γάρ τι φαῦλος

## CHARMIDES

In the state in which you see me, I replied.

It has been reported here, you know, said he, that the battle was very severe, and that many of our acquaintance have lost their lives in it.

Then the report, I replied, is pretty near the truth.

You were present, he asked, at the fighting ?

I was present.

Then sit down here, he said, and give us a full account ; for as yet we have had no clear report of it all. And with that he led me to a seat by Critias, son of Callaeschrus. So I sat down there and greeted Critias and the rest, and gave them all the news from the battlefield, in answer to their various questions ; each had his inquiry to make.

When we had had enough of such matters, I in my turn began to inquire about affairs at home, how philosophy was doing at present, and whether any of the rising young men had distinguished themselves for wisdom or beauty or both. Then Critias, looking towards the door, for he saw some young fellows who were coming in with some railing at each other, and a crowd of people following on behind them, said—Concerning the beauties, Socrates, I expect you will get your knowledge at once : for these who are coming in are in fact forerunners and lovers of the person who is held, for the moment at least, to be the greatest beauty ; and he himself, I imagine, must by now be nearly upon us.

Who is he, I asked, and whose son ?

You must know, he replied, but he was not yet grown up when you went away,—Charmides, son of our uncle Glaucon, and my cousin.

I do know, to be sure, I said ; for he was not to

## PLATO

οὐδὲ τότε ἦν ἔτι παῖς ὢν, νῦν δ' οἶμαί που εὖ μάλα ἂν ἤδη μειράκιον εἶη.

Αὐτίκα, ἔφη, εἶσει καὶ ἡλίκος καὶ οἶος γέγονε. καὶ ἅμα ταῦτ' αὐτοῦ λέγοντος ὁ Χαρμίδης εἰσέρχεται.

Ἐμοὶ μὲν οὖν, ὦ ἐταῖρε, οὐδὲν σταθμητόν· ἀτεχνῶς γὰρ λευκὴ στάθμη εἰμὶ πρὸς τοὺς καλοὺς· σχεδὸν γὰρ τί μοι πάντες οἱ ἐν τῇ ἡλικίᾳ καλοὶ φαίνονται· ἀτὰρ οὖν δὴ καὶ τότε ἐκεῖνος ἐμοὶ  
 C θαυμαστός ἐφάνη τό τε μέγεθος καὶ τὸ κάλλος, οἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλοι πάντες ἐρᾶν ἔμοιγε ἐδόκουν αὐτοῦ· οὕτως ἐκπεπληγμένοι τε καὶ τεθορυβημένοι ἦσαν, ἡνίκ' εἰσῆει· πολλοὶ δὲ δὴ ἄλλοι ἐρασταὶ καὶ ἐν τοῖς ὄπισθεν εἶποντο. καὶ τὸ μὲν ἡμέτερον τὸ τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἦττον θαυμαστόν ἦν· ἀλλ' ἐγὼ καὶ τοῖς παισὶ προσέσχον τὸν νοῦν, ὡς οὐδεὶς ἄλλοσ' ἔβλεπεν αὐτῶν, οὐδ' ὅστις σμικρότατος ἦν, ἀλλὰ  
 D πάντες ὥσπερ ἄγαλμα ἐθεῶντο αὐτόν. καὶ ὁ Χαιρεφῶν καλέσας με, Τί σοι φαίνεται ὁ νεανίσκος, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες; οὐκ εὐπρόσωπος;

Ἵπερφυῶς, ἦν δ' ἐγώ.

Οὗτος μέντοι, ἔφη, εἰ ἐθέλοι ἀποδῦναι, δόξει σοι ἀπρόσωπος εἶναι· οὕτως τὸ εἶδος πάγκαλός ἐστιν.

Συνέφασαν οὖν καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι ταῦτ' αὐτὰ τῷ Χαιρεφῶντι· καὶ γὰρ, Ἡράκλεις, ἔφην, ὡς ἅμαχον λέγετε τὸν ἄνδρα, εἰ ἔτι αὐτῷ ἐν δὴ μόνον τυγχάνει προσὸν σμικρόν τι.

Τί; ἔφη ὁ Κριτίας.

Εἰ τὴν ψυχὴν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, τυγχάνει εὖ πεφυκῶς. πρέπει δέ που, ὦ Κριτία, τοιοῦτον αὐτὸν εἶναι τῆς γε ὑμετέρας ὄντα οἰκίας.

## CHARMIDES

be despised even then, when he was still a child, and now, I suppose, he will be quite a youth by this time.

You will know this moment, he said, both how much and to what purpose he has grown. And just as he spoke these words, Charmides entered.

Now I, my good friend, am no measurer : I am a mere "white line"<sup>1</sup> in measuring beautiful people, for almost everyone who has just grown up appears beautiful to me. Nay and this time, moreover, the young man appeared to me a marvel of stature and beauty ; and all the rest, to my thinking, were in love with him, such was their astonishment and confusion when he came in, and a number of other lovers were following in his train. On the part of men like us it was not so surprising ; but when I came to observe the boys I noticed that none of them, not even the smallest, had eyes for anything else, but that they all gazed at him as if he were a statue. Then Chaerephon called me and said—How does the youth strike you, Socrates ? Has he not a fine face ?

Immensely so, I replied.

Yet if he would consent to strip, he said, you would think he had no face, he has such perfect beauty of form.

And these words of Chaerephon were repeated by the rest. Then,—By Heracles ! I said, what an irresistible person you make him out to be, if he has but one more thing—a little thing—besides.

What ? said Critias.

If in his soul, I replied, he is of good grain. And I should think, Critias, he ought to be, since he is of your house.

<sup>1</sup> A *white* or chalked line was proverbially useless for marking off measurements on *white* stone or marble.

Ἄλλ', ἔφη, πάνυ καλὸς καὶ ἀγαθὸς ἐστὶ καὶ ταῦτα.

Τί οὖν, ἔφην, οὐκ ἀπεδύσαμεν αὐτοῦ αὐτὸ τοῦτο καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα πρότερον τοῦ εἶδους; πάντως γάρ που τηλικούτος ὢν ἤδη ἐθέλει διαλέγεσθαι.

Καὶ πάνυ γε, ἔφη ὁ Κριτίας, ἐπεὶ τοι καὶ ἐστὶ  
155 φιλόσοφος τε καί, ὡς δοκεῖ ἄλλοις τε καὶ ἑαυτῷ, πάνυ ποιητικὸς.

Τοῦτο μὲν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ φίλε Κριτία, πόρρωθεν ὑμῖν τὸ καλὸν ὑπάρχει ἀπὸ τῆς Σόλωνος συγγενείας. ἀλλὰ τί οὐκ ἐπέδειξάς μοι τὸν νεανίαν καλέσας δεῦρο; οὐδὲ γὰρ ἂν που εἰ ἔτι ἐτύγχανε<sup>1</sup> νεώτερος ὢν, αἰσχροὺς ἂν ἦν αὐτῷ διαλέγεσθαι ἡμῖν ἐναντίον γε σοῦ, ἐπιτρόπου τε ἅμα καὶ ἀνεψιοῦ ὄντος.

Ἄλλὰ καλῶς, ἔφη, λέγεις, καὶ καλοῦμεν αὐτόν.  
B καὶ ἅμα πρὸς τὸν ἀκόλουθον, Παῖ, ἔφη, κάλει Χαρμίδην, εἰπὼν ὅτι βούλομαι αὐτὸν ἰατρῷ συστήσασθαι περὶ τῆς ἀσθενείας ἧς πρῶτην πρὸς με ἔλεγεν ὅτι ἀσθενοῖ. πρὸς οὖν ἐμὲ ὁ Κριτίας, Ἐναγχὸς τοι ἔφη βαρύνεσθαι τι τὴν κεφαλὴν ἔωθεν ἀνιστάμενος· ἀλλὰ τί σε κωλύει προσποιήσασθαι πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐπίστασθαι τι κεφαλῆς φάρμακον;

Οὐδέν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· μόνον ἐλθέτω.

Ἄλλ' ἤξει, ἔφη.

Ὁ οὖν καὶ ἐγένετο. ἦκε γάρ, καὶ ἐποίησε γέλωτα πολύν· ἕκαστος γὰρ ἡμῶν τῶν καθημένων  
C συγχωρῶν τὸν πλησίον ἐώθει<sup>2</sup> σπουδῆ, ἵνα παρ' αὐτῷ καθέζοιτο, ἕως τῶν ἐπ' ἐσχάτῳ καθημένων τὸν μὲν ἀνεστήσαμεν, τὸν δὲ πλάγιον κατεβάλομεν. ὁ δ' ἐλθὼν μεταξὺ ἐμοῦ τε καὶ τοῦ Κριτίου ἐκαθέ-

<sup>1</sup> εἰ ἔτι ἐτύγχανε Goldbacher: ἔτι τυγχάνει, εἰ ἐτύγχανε MSS.

<sup>2</sup> ἐώθει W. Dindorf: ὠθει MSS.

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Ah, he said, he is right fair and good in that way also.

Why then, I said, let us strip that very part of him and view it first, instead of his form ; for anyhow, at that age, I am sure he is quite ready to have a discussion.

Very much so, said Critias ; for, I may say, he is in fact a philosopher, and also—as others besides himself consider—quite a poet.

That, my dear Critias, I said, is a gift which your family has had a long while back, through your kinship with Solon. But why not call the young man here and show him to me ? For surely, even if he were younger still, there could be no discredit in our having a talk with him before you, who are at once his guardian and his cousin.

You are quite right, he said, and we will call him. Thereupon he said to his attendant,—Boy, call Charmides ; tell him I want him to see a doctor about the ailment with which he told me he was troubled yesterday. Then, turning to me,—You know, he has spoken lately of having a headache, said Critias, on getting up in the morning : now why should you not represent to him that you know a cure for headache ?

Why not ? I said : only he must come.

Oh, he will be here, he said.

And so it was ; for he came, and caused much laughter, because each of us who were seated made room for him by pushing hard at his neighbour so as to have him sitting beside himself, until at either end of the seat one had to stand up, and we tumbled the other off sideways ; and he came and sat down between me and Critias. But here, my

ζετο. ἐνταῦθα μέντοι, ὦ φίλε, ἐγὼ ἤδη ἠπόρουν, καὶ μου ἢ πρόσθεν θρασύτης ἐξεκέκοπτο, ἣν εἶχον ἐγὼ ὡς πάνυ ραδίως αὐτῷ διαλεξόμενος· ἐπειδὴ δέ, φράσαντος τοῦ Κριτίου ὅτι ἐγὼ εἶην ὁ τὸ φάρμακον

- D ἐπιστάμενος, ἐνέβλεψέ τέ μοι τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς ἀμήχανόν τι οἶον καὶ ἀνήγετο ὡς ἐρωτήσων, καὶ οἱ ἐν τῇ παλαίστρα ἅπαντες περιέρρεον ἡμᾶς κύκλω κομιδῇ, τότε δὴ, ὦ γεννάδα, εἰδόν τε τὰ ἐντὸς τοῦ ἱματίου καὶ ἐφλεγόμενην καὶ οὐκέτ' ἐν ἑμαυτοῦ ἦν καὶ ἐνόμισα σοφώτατον εἶναι τὸν Κυδίαν τὰ ἐρωτικά, ὃς εἶπεν ἐπὶ καλοῦ λέγων παιδός, ἄλλω ὑποτιθέμενος, “εὐλαβεῖσθαι μὴ κατέναντα λέοντος νεβρὸν ἐλθόντα μοῖραν αἰρεῖσθαι κρεῶν.” αὐτὸς γάρ
- E μοι ἐδόκουν ὑπὸ τοῦ τοιούτου θρέμματος ἐαλωκέναι. ὅμως δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐρωτήσαντος, εἰ ἐπισταίμην τὸ τῆς κεφαλῆς φάρμακον, μόγις πως ἀπεκρινάμην ὅτι ἐπισταίμην.

Τί οὖν, ἦ δ' ὅς, ἐστίν;

Καὶ ἐγὼ εἶπον ὅτι αὐτὸ μὲν εἶη φύλλον τι, ἐπωδὴ δέ τις ἐπὶ τῷ φαρμάκῳ εἶη, ἦν εἰ μὲν τις ἐπάδοι ἅμα καὶ χρωτο αὐτῷ, παντάπασιν ὑγιᾶ ποιοῖ τὸ φάρμακον· ἄνευ δὲ τῆς ἐπωδῆς οὐδὲν ὄφελος εἶη τοῦ φύλλου.

- 156 Καὶ ὅς, Ἀπογράφομαι τοίνυν, ἔφη, παρὰ σοῦ τὴν ἐπωδὴν.

Πότερον, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἐάν με πείθης ἢ κἂν μή;

Γελάσας οὖν, Ἐάν σε πείθω, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες.

Εἶεν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· καὶ τοῦνομά μου σὺ ἀκριβοῖς;

Εἰ μὴ ἀδικῶ γε, ἔφη· οὐ γάρ τι σοῦ ὀλίγος λόγος

· A poet classed with Mimnermus and Archilochus by Plutarch; cf. Bergk, *Poet. Lyr.*<sup>2</sup> p. 960.



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friend, I began to feel perplexed, and my former confidence in looking forward to a quite easy time in talking with him had been knocked out of me. And when, on Critias telling him that it was I who knew the cure, he gave me such a look with his eyes as passes description, and was just about to plunge into a question, and when all the people in the wrestling-school surged round about us on every side—then, ah then, my noble friend, I saw inside his cloak and caught fire, and could possess myself no longer; and I thought none was so wise in love-matters as Cydias,<sup>1</sup> who in speaking of a beautiful boy recommends someone to “beware of coming as a fawn before the lion, and being seized as his portion of flesh”; for I too felt I had fallen a prey to some such creature. However, when he had asked me if I knew the cure for headache, I somehow contrived to answer that I knew.

Then what is it? he asked.

So I told him that the thing itself was a certain leaf, but there was a charm to go with the remedy; and if one uttered the charm at the moment of its application, the remedy made one perfectly well; but without the charm there was no efficacy in the leaf.

Then I will take down the charm, said he, from you in writing.

Do you prefer, I asked, to get my consent first, or to do without it?

This made him laugh, and he said: To get your consent, Socrates.

Very well, I said; and are you certain of my name?

Unless I misjudge, he replied; for there is no

ἔστιν ἐν τοῖς ἡμετέροις ἡλικιώταις, μέμνημαι δὲ ἔγωγε καὶ παῖς ὢν Κριτία τῷδε συνόντα σε.

Καλῶς γε σύ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ποιῶν· μᾶλλον γάρ σοι  
 Β παρρησιάσομαι περὶ τῆς ἐπωδῆς, οἷα τυγχάνει  
 οὔσα· ἄρτι δ' ἠπόρουν, τίνι τρόπῳ σοι ἐνδειξαίμην  
 τὴν δύναμιν αὐτῆς. ἔστι γάρ, ὦ Χαρμίδη, τοιαύτη  
 οἷα μὴ δύνασθαι τὴν κεφαλὴν μόνον ὑγιᾶ ποιεῖν,  
 ἀλλ' ὥσπερ ἴσως ἤδη καὶ σὺ ἀκήκοας τῶν ἀγαθῶν  
 ἰατρῶν, ἐπειδάν τις αὐτοῖς προσέλθῃ τοὺς ὀφθαλ-  
 μοὺς ἀλγῶν, λέγουσί που, ὅτι οὐχ οἷόν τε αὐτοὺς  
 μόνους ἐπιχειρεῖν τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς ἰᾶσθαι, ἀλλ'  
 ἀναγκαῖον εἶη ἅμα καὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν θεραπεύειν,  
 C εἰ μέλλοι καὶ τὰ τῶν ὀμμάτων εὖ ἔχειν· καὶ αὖ τὸ  
 τὴν κεφαλὴν οἶεσθαι ἂν ποτε θεραπεῦσαι αὐτὴν ἐφ'  
 ἑαυτῆς ἄνευ ὅλου τοῦ σώματος πολλὴν ἄνοιαν εἶναι.  
 ἐκ δὴ τούτου τοῦ λόγου διαίταις ἐπὶ πᾶν τὸ σῶμα  
 τρεπόμενοι μετὰ τοῦ ὅλου τὸ μέρος ἐπιχειροῦσι  
 θεραπεύειν τε καὶ ἰᾶσθαι· ἢ οὐκ ἦσθησαι ὅτι ταῦτα  
 οὕτως λέγουσί τε καὶ ἔχει;

Πάνυ γε, ἔφη.

Οὐκοῦν καλῶς σοι δοκεῖ λέγεσθαι καὶ ἀποδέχῃ  
 τὸν λόγον;

Πάντων μάλιστα, ἔφη.

D Κὰγὼ ἀκούσας αὐτοῦ ἐπαινέσαντος ἀνεθάρρησά  
 τε, καὶ μοι κατὰ σμικρὸν πάλιν ἡ θρασύτης συν-  
 ηγείρετο, καὶ ἀνεζωπυρούμην· καὶ εἶπον· Τοιοῦτον  
 τοίνυν ἐστίν, ὦ Χαρμίδη, καὶ τὸ ταύτης τῆς ἐπωδῆς.  
 ἔμαθον δ' αὐτὴν ἐγὼ ἐκεῖ ἐπὶ στρατιᾶς παρά τινος  
 τῶν Θρακῶν τῶν Ζαλμόξιδος ἰατρῶν, οἱ λέγονται  
 καὶ ἀπαθανατίζειν. ἔλεγε δὲ ὁ Θραξ οὗτος, ὅτι  
 ταῦτα μὲν [ἰατροῖ]<sup>1</sup> οἱ Ἕλληνες, ἃ νῦν δὴ ἐγώ

<sup>1</sup> ἰατροὶ secl. Cobet.

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little talk of you among the set of our age, and I remember as a mere child the sight of you in company with Critias here.

That is a good thing, I said : for I shall speak more freely to you about the charm, and its real nature ; just now I was at a loss for the way to apprise you of its power. For it is of such a nature, Charmides, that it cannot cure the head alone ; I daresay you have yourself sometimes heard good doctors say, you know, when a patient comes to them with a pain in his eyes, that it is not possible for them to attempt a cure of his eyes alone, but that it is necessary to treat his head too at the same time, if he is to have his eyes in good order ; and so again, that to expect ever to treat the head by itself, apart from the body as a whole, is utter folly. And on this principle they apply their regimen to the whole body, and attempt to treat and heal the part along with the whole ; or have you not observed that this is what they say, and is done in fact ?

Certainly I have, he said.

And you consider it well said, and accept the principle ?

Most assuredly, he said.

Then I, on hearing his approval, regained my courage ; and little by little I began to muster up my confidence again, and my spirit began to rekindle. So I said,—Such, then, Charmides, is the nature of this charm. I learnt it on campaign over there, from one of the Thracian physicians of Zalmoxis,<sup>1</sup> who are said even to make one immortal. This Thracian said that the Greeks were right in

<sup>1</sup> A legendary hero of the Thracian race of the Getae ; *cf.* Herodotus, iv. 94-6.

ἔλεγον, καλῶς λέγοιεν· ἀλλὰ Ζάλμοξις, ἔφη, λέγει  
 Ε ὁ ἡμέτερος βασιλεύς, θεὸς ὢν, ὅτι ὡσπερ ὀφθαλ-  
 μούς ἄνευ κεφαλῆς οὐ δεῖ ἐπιχειρεῖν ἰᾶσθαι οὐδὲ  
 κεφαλὴν ἄνευ σώματος, οὕτως οὐδὲ σῶμα ἄνευ  
 ψυχῆς, ἀλλὰ τοῦτο καὶ αἴτιον εἶη τοῦ διαφεύγειν  
 τοὺς παρὰ τοῖς Ἑλλησιν ἰατροὺς τὰ πολλὰ νοσή-  
 ματα, ὅτι τοῦ ὄλου<sup>1</sup> ἀμελοῖεν οὐδέοι τὴν ἐπιμέλειαν  
 ποιεῖσθαι, οὐ μὴ καλῶς ἔχοντος ἀδύνατον εἶη τὸ  
 μέρος εὖ ἔχειν. πάντα γὰρ ἔφη ἐκ τῆς ψυχῆς  
 ὠρμησθαι καὶ τὰ κακὰ καὶ τὰ ἀγαθὰ τῷ σώματι  
 καὶ παντὶ τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ, καὶ ἐκεῖθεν ἐπιρρεῖν ὡσπερ  
 157 ἐκ τῆς κεφαλῆς ἐπὶ τὰ ὄμματα· δεῖν οὖν ἐκεῖνο  
 καὶ πρῶτον καὶ μάλιστα θεραπεύειν, εἰ μέλλει καὶ  
 τὰ τῆς κεφαλῆς καὶ τὰ τοῦ ἄλλου σώματος καλῶς  
 ἔχειν. θεραπεύεσθαι δὲ τὴν ψυχὴν ἔφη, ὦ μακάριε,  
 ἐπωδαῖς τισιν· τὰς δ' ἐπωδάς ταύτας τοὺς λόγους  
 εἶναι τοὺς καλοὺς· ἐκ δὲ τῶν τοιοῦτων λόγων ἐν-  
 ταῖς ψυχαῖς σωφροσύνην ἐγγίγνεσθαι, ἧς ἐγγενο-  
 μένης καὶ παρούσης ῥάδιον ἤδη εἶναι τὴν ὑγίειαν  
 καὶ τῇ κεφαλῇ καὶ τῷ ἄλλῳ σώματι πορίζειν.  
 Β διδάσκων οὖν με τό τε φάρμακον καὶ τὰς ἐπωδάς,  
 ὅπως, ἔφη, τῷ φαρμάκῳ τούτῳ μηδεὶς σε πείσει τὴν  
 αὐτοῦ κεφαλὴν θεραπεύειν, ὃς ἂν μὴ τὴν ψυχὴν  
 πρῶτον παράσχη τῇ ἐπωδῇ ὑπὸ σοῦ θεραπευθῆναι.  
 καὶ γὰρ νῦν, ἔφη, τοῦτ' ἔστι τὸ ἀμάρτημα περὶ  
 τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ὅτι χωρὶς ἐκατέρου [σωφροσύνης  
 τε καὶ ὑγείας]<sup>2</sup> ἰατροὶ τινες ἐπιχειροῦσιν εἶναι·  
 καὶ μοι πάννυ σφόδρα ἐνετέλλετο μήτε πλούσιον  
 οὕτω μηδένα εἶναι μήτε γενναῖον μήτε καλόν, ὃς

<sup>1</sup> τοῦ ὄλου Burnet: τὸ ὄλον ἀγνοοῖεν mss.: τοῦ ἄλλου ἀμελοῖεν Stobaeus.

<sup>2</sup> σωφροσύνης τε καὶ ὑγείας om. Laur. lxxxv. 6.

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advising as I told you just now : “ but Zalmoxis,” he said, “ our king, who is a god, says that as you ought not to attempt to cure eyes without head, or head without body, so you should not treat body without soul ” ; and this was the reason why most maladies evaded the physicians of Greece — that they neglected *the whole*, on which they ought to spend their pains, for if this were out of order it was impossible for *the part* to be in order. For all that was good and evil, he said, in the body and in man altogether was sprung from the soul, and flowed along from thence as it did from the head into the eyes. Wherefore that part was to be treated first and foremost, if all was to be well with the head and the rest of the body. And the treatment of the soul, so he said, my wonderful friend, is by means of certain charms, and these charms are words of the right sort : by the use of such words is temperance engendered in our souls, and as soon as it is engendered and present we may easily secure health to the head, and to the rest of the body also. Now in teaching me the remedy and the charms he remarked,—“ Let nobody persuade you to treat his head with this remedy, unless he has first submitted his soul for you to treat with the charm. For at present,” he said, “ the cure of mankind is beset with the error of certain doctors who attempt to practise the one method without the other.” And he most particularly enjoined on me not to let anyone, however wealthy or noble or handsome, induce me to disobey

C ἐμὲ πείσει ἄλλως ποιεῖν. ἐγὼ οὖν—ὀμώμοκα γὰρ αὐτῷ, καὶ μοι ἀνάγκη πείθεσθαι—πείσομαι οὖν, καὶ σοί, ἐὰν μὲν βούλη κατὰ τὰς τοῦ ξένου ἐντολὰς τὴν ψυχὴν πρῶτον παρασχεῖν ἐπάσαι ταῖς τοῦ Θρακὸς ἐπωδαῖς, προσοίσω τὸ φάρμακον τῇ κεφαλῇ· εἰ δὲ μή, οὐκ ἂν ἔχοιμεν ὅ τι ποιούμεν σοι, ὦ φίλε Χαρμίδη.

Ἄκουσας οὖν μου ὁ Κριτίας ταῦτ' εἰπόντος, Ἔρμαιον, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, γεγονὸς ἂν εἴη ἡ τῆς κεφαλῆς ἀσθένεια τῷ νεανίσκῳ, εἰ ἀναγκασθήσεται D καὶ τὴν διάνοιαν διὰ τὴν κεφαλὴν βελτίων γενέσθαι. λέγω μέντοι σοι, ὅτι Χαρμίδης τῶν ἡλικιωτῶν οὐ μόνον τῇ ἰδέᾳ δοκεῖ διαφέρειν, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐτῷ τούτῳ, οὐδ' σὺ φῆς τὴν ἐπωδὴν ἔχειν· φῆς δὲ σωφροσύνης· ἦ γάρ;

Πάνυ γε, ἦν δ' ἐγώ.

Εὐ τοίνυν ἴσθι, ἔφη, ὅτι πάνυ πολὺ δοκεῖ σωφρονέστατος εἶναι τῶν νυνί, καὶ τὰλλα πάντα, εἰς ὅσον ἡλικίας ἦκει, οὐδενὸς χείρων ὢν.

Καὶ γάρ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, καὶ δίκαιον, ὦ Χαρμίδη, διαφέρειν σε τῶν ἄλλων πᾶσι τοῖς τοιούτοις· οὐ E γὰρ οἶμαι ἄλλον οὐδένα τῶν ἐνθάδε ῥαδίως ἂν ἔχειν ἐπιδειξαι, ποῖαι δύο οἰκίαι συνελθοῦσαι εἰς ταῦτόν τῶν Ἀθήνησιν ἐκ τῶν εἰκότων καλλίω ἂν καὶ ἀμείνω γεννήσειαν ἢ ἐξ ὧν σὺ γέγονας. ἦ τε γὰρ πατρώα ὑμῖν οἰκία, ἢ Κριτίου τοῦ Δρωπίδου, καὶ ὑπ' Ἀνακρέοντος καὶ ὑπὸ Σόλωνος καὶ ὑπ' ἄλλων πολλῶν ποιητῶν ἐγκεκωμιασμένη παραδέδοται ἡμῖν, ὡς διαφέρουσα κάλλει τε καὶ ἀρετῇ 158 καὶ τῇ ἄλλῃ λεγομένη εὐδαιμονία· καὶ αὐτὴ ἢ πρὸς μητρὸς ὡσαύτως· Πυριλάμπους γὰρ τοῦ σοῦ θεί-

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him. So I, since I have given him my oath, and must obey him, will do as he bids ; and if you agree to submit your soul first to the effect of the Thracian charms, according to the stranger's injunctions, I will apply the remedy to your head : otherwise we shall be at a loss what to do with you, my dear Charmides.

Then Critias, when he heard me say this, remarked,—This affection of the head, Socrates, will turn out to be a stroke of luck for the young man, if he is to be compelled on account of his head to improve his understanding also. However, let me tell you, Charmides is considered to excel his comrades not only in appearance, but also in that very thing which you say is produced by your charm : temperance, you say it is, do you not ?

Certainly, I replied.

Then be assured, he said, that he is considered to be far and away the most temperate person now alive, while in every other respect, for a youth of his age, he is second to none.

Why, yes, I said, and it is only right, Charmides, that you should excel the rest in all these respects ; for I do not suppose there is anyone else here who could readily point to a case of any two Athenian houses uniting together which would be likely to produce handsomer or nobler offspring than those from which you are sprung. For your father's house, which comes from Critias, son of Dropides, has been celebrated by Anacreon and Solon and many other poets, so that it is famed by tradition among us as pre-eminent in beauty and virtue and all else that is accounted happiness ; and then, your mother's house is famous in the same way, for of Ppyrilampes,

ου οὐδείς τῶν ἐν τῇ ἠπειρῷ λέγεται καλλίων καὶ  
 μείζων ἀνὴρ δόξαι εἶναι, ὅσακίς ἐκεῖνος ἢ παρὰ  
 μέγαν βασιλέα ἢ παρ' ἄλλον τινὰ τῶν ἐν τῇ ἠπειρῷ  
 πρεσβεύων ἀφίκετο, σύμπασα δὲ αὕτη ἢ οἰκία οὐδ-  
 ἐν τῆς ἐτέρας ὑποδεεστέρα. ἐκ δὴ τοιούτων γεγο-  
 νότα εἰκός σε εἰς πάντα πρῶτον εἶναι. τὰ μὲν οὖν  
 Β ὀρώμενα τῆς ἰδέας, ὦ φίλε παῖ Γλαύκωνος, δοκεῖς  
 μοι οὐδένα τῶν πρὸ σου ἐν οὐδενὶ ὑποβεβηκέναι<sup>1</sup>.  
 εἰ δὲ δὴ καὶ πρὸς σωφροσύνην καὶ πρὸς τὰλλα  
 κατὰ τὸν τοῦδε λόγον ἰκανῶς πέφυκας, μακάριόν σε,  
 ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ φίλε Χαρμίδη, ἢ μήτηρ ἔτικτεν. ἔχει  
 δ' οὖν οὕτως. εἰ μὲν σοι ἤδη πάρεστιν, ὡς λέγει  
 Κριτίας ὅδε, σωφροσύνη, καὶ εἰ σῶφρων ἰκανῶς,  
 οὐδὲν ἔτι σοι ἔδει οὔτε τῶν Ζαλμόξιδος οὔτε  
 τῶν Ἀβάριδος τοῦ Ὑπερβορέου ἐπωδῶν, ἀλλ' αὐτό  
 C σοι ἂν ἤδη δοτέον εἴη τὸ τῆς κεφαλῆς φάρμακον.  
 εἰ δ' ἔτι τούτων ἐπιδειῆς εἶναι δοκεῖς, ἐπαστέον  
 πρὸ τῆς τοῦ φαρμάκου δόσεως. αὐτὸς οὖν μοι  
 εἰπέ, πότερον ὁμολογεῖς τῶδε καὶ φῆς ἰκανῶς ἤδη  
 καὶ σωφροσύνης μετέχειν ἢ ἐνδεῆς εἶναι;  
 Ἐνερευθρίασας οὖν ὁ Χαρμίδης πρῶτον μὲν ἔτι  
 καλλίων ἐφάνη· καὶ γὰρ τὸ αἰσχυνητὸν αὐτοῦ τῇ  
 ἡλικίᾳ ἔπρεψεν· ἔπειτα καὶ οὐκ ἀγεννῶς ἀπεκρίνατο·  
 εἶπε γὰρ ὅτι οὐ ράδιον εἴη ἐν τῷ παρόντι οὔθ'  
 ὁμολογεῖν οὔτε ἐξάρνω εἶναι τὰ ἐρωτώμενα. εἰ  
 D μὲν γάρ, ἢ δ' ὅς, μὴ φῶ εἶναι σῶφρων, ἅμα μὲν  
 ἄτοπον αὐτὸν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ τοιαῦτα λέγειν, ἅμα δὲ  
 καὶ Κριτίαν τόνδε ψευδῆ ἐπιδείξω καὶ ἄλλους  
 πολλούς, οἷς δοκῶ εἶναι σῶφρων, ὡς ὁ τούτου

<sup>1</sup> ὑποβεβηκέναι Madvig : ὑπερβεβληκέναι mss.

<sup>1</sup> A fabulous hero of the far north, to whom oracles and charms were ascribed by the Greeks; cf. Herodotus, iv. 36.



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your uncle, it is said that no one in all the continent was considered to be his superior in beauty or stature, whenever he came as envoy to the great king or anyone else in Asia, and his house as a whole is no whit inferior to the other. Sprung from such people, it is to be supposed that you would be first in all things. And indeed, as regards your visible form, dear son of Glaucon, I consider that nowhere have you fallen behind any of your ancestors. But if your nature is really rich in temperance and those other things, as our friend here says, blessed is the son, dear Charmides, I exclaimed, that your mother has borne in you! However, the case stands thus: if you already possess temperance, as Critias here declares, and you are sufficiently temperate, then you never had any need of the charms of Zalmoxis or of Abaris the Hyperborean,<sup>1</sup> and might well be given at once the remedy for the head; but if you prove to be still lacking that virtue, we must apply the charm before the remedy. So tell me yourself whether you agree with our friend, and can say that you are already sufficiently provided with temperance, or are deficient in it?

At this Charmides blushed and, for one thing, looked more beautiful than ever, for his modesty became his years; and then, too, he answered most ingenuously, saying it was no easy matter at the moment either to admit or to deny the words of the question. For if, he went on, I say I am not temperate, not only is it a strange thing to say against oneself, but I shall at the same time be taxing with untruth both Critias and many others who consider me to be temperate, as he gives out; while

λόγος· ἐὰν δ' αὖ φῶ καὶ ἐμαυτὸν ἐπαινῶ, ἴσως ἐπαχθὲς φανεῖται· ὥστε οὐκ ἔχω ὃ τί σοι ἀποκρίνωμαι.

Καὶ ἐγὼ εἶπον ὅτι μοι εἰκότα φαίνη λέγειν, ὦ Χαρμίδη. καὶ μοι δοκεῖ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, κοινῇ ἂν εἶναι σκεπτέον, εἴτε κέκτησαι εἴτε μὴ ὁ πυνθάνομαι, ἵνα  
 Ε μήτε σὺ ἀναγκάζῃ λέγειν ἂ μὴ βούλει, μήτ' αὖ ἐγὼ ἀσκέπτως ἐπὶ τὴν ἰατρικὴν τρέπωμαι. εἰ οὖν σοι φίλον, ἐθέλω σκοπεῖν μετὰ σοῦ· εἰ δὲ μή, ἔαν.

Ἄλλὰ πάντων μάλιστα, ἔφη, φίλον· ὥστε τούτου γε ἔνεκα, ὅπῃ αὐτὸς οἶει βέλτιον<sup>1</sup> σκέψασθαι, ταύτῃ σκόπει.

Τῆδε τοίνυν, ἔφην ἐγώ, δοκεῖ μοι βελτίστη εἶναι ἢ σκέψις περὶ αὐτοῦ. δῆλον γὰρ ὅτι, εἴ σοι  
 159 πάρεστι σωφροσύνη, ἔχεις τι περὶ αὐτῆς δοξάζειν. ἀνάγκη γάρ που ἐνοῦσαν αὐτήν, εἶπερ ἔνεστιν, αἰσθησίν τινα παρέχειν, ἐξ ἧς δόξα ἂν τίς σοι περὶ αὐτῆς εἴη, ὃ τί ἐστι καὶ ὁποῖόν τι ἢ σωφροσύνη· ἢ οὐκ οἶει;

Ἔγωγε, ἔφη, οἶμαι.

Οὐκοῦν τοῦτό γε, ἔφην, ὃ οἶει, ἐπειδήπερ ἑλληνίζειν ἐπίστασαι, κὰν εἴποις δήπου αὐτὸ ὃ τί σοι φαίνεται.

Ἴσως, ἔφη.

Ἴνα τοίνυν τοπάσωμεν εἴτε σοι ἔνεστιν εἴτε μή, εἰπέ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, τί φῆς εἶναι σωφροσύνην κατὰ τὴν σὴν δόξαν.

Β Καὶ ὃς τὸ μὲν πρῶτον ὠκνεῖ τε καὶ οὐ πάνυ ἠθέλεν ἀποκρίνασθαι· ἔπειτα μέντοι εἶπεν ὅτι οἱ δοκοῖ σωφροσύνη εἶναι τὸ κοσμίως πάντα πράττειν καὶ ἡσυχῇ, ἐν τε ταῖς ὁδοῖς βαδίζειν καὶ δια-

<sup>1</sup> βέλτιον Heindorf: βελτίω mss.

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if, on the other hand, I say I am, and praise myself, it will probably be found distasteful; so that I cannot see what answer I am to give you.

Then I said: Your answer is a natural one, in my opinion, Charmides; and I think, I went on, that we must join in inquiring whether you possess the thing I am asking after, or not, in order that neither you may be forced to say what you do not wish, nor I on my part may recklessly try my hand at medicine. So if it is agreeable to you, I am ready to inquire with you; but, if it is not, to let it alone.

Why, nothing, he said, could be more agreeable to me: so far as that goes, therefore, inquire in whatever way you think we had better proceed.

Then this is the way, I said, in which I consider that our inquiry into this matter had best be conducted. Now, it is clear that, if you have temperance with you, you can hold an opinion about it. For being in you, I presume it must, in that case, afford some perception from which you can form some opinion of what temperance is, and what kind of thing it is: do you not think so?

I do, he replied.

And since you understand the Greek tongue, I said, you can tell me, I suppose, your view of this particular thought of yours?

I daresay, he said.

Then in order that we may make a guess whether it is in you or not, tell me, I said, what you say of temperance according to your opinion.

He at first hung back, and was not at all willing to answer: but presently he said that, to his mind, temperance was doing everything orderly and quietly—walking in the streets, talking, and doing

λέγεσθαι, καὶ τὰ ἄλλα πάντα ὡσαύτως ποιεῖν· καὶ μοι δοκεῖ, ἔφη, συλλήβδην ἡσυχιότης τις εἶναι ὁ ἐρωτᾶς.

Ἄρ' οὖν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, εὖ λέγεις; φασί γέ τοι, ὦ Χαρμίδη, τοὺς ἡσυχίους σώφρονας εἶναι· ἴδωμεν δὴ εἴ τι λέγουσιν. εἶπέ γάρ μοι, οὐ τῶν καλῶν  
C μέντοι ἡ σωφροσύνη ἐστί;

Πάνυ γε, ἔφη.

Πότερον οὖν κάλλιστον ἐν γραμματιστοῦ τὰ ὅμοια γράμματα γράφειν ταχὺ ἢ ἡσυχῆ;

Ταχύ.

Τί δ' ἀναγιγνώσκειν; ταχέως ἢ βραδέως;

Ταχέως.

Καὶ μὲν δὴ καὶ τὸ κιθαρίζειν ταχέως καὶ τὸ παλαίειν ὀξέως πολὺ κάλλιον τοῦ ἡσυχῆ τε καὶ βραδέως;

Ναί.

Τί δὲ πυκτεύειν τε καὶ παγκρατιάζειν; οὐχ ὡσαύτως;

Πάνυ γε.

Θεῖν δὲ καὶ ἄλλεσθαι καὶ τὰ τοῦ σώματος  
D ἅπαντα ἔργα, οὐ τὰ μὲν ὀξέως καὶ ταχὺ γιγνόμενα τοῦ καλοῦ ἐστί, τὰ δὲ [βραδέα]<sup>1</sup> μόγις τε καὶ ἡσύχια τοῦ αἰσχροῦ;

Φαίνεται.

Φαίνεται ἄρα ἡμῖν, ἔφην ἐγώ, κατὰ γε τὸ σῶμα οὐ τὸ ἡσύχιον, ἀλλὰ τὸ τάχιστον καὶ ὀξύτατον κάλλιστον ὄν. ἦ γάρ;

Πάνυ γε.

Ἡ δέ γε σωφροσύνη καλόν τι ἦν;

Ναί.

<sup>1</sup> βραδέα secl. Heindorf.

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everything else of that kind ; and in a word, he said, I think the thing about which you ask may be called quietness.

Well, I said, are you right there ? They do say, you know, Charmides, that quiet people are temperate : so let us see if there is anything in what they say. Tell me, is not temperance, however, among the honourable things ?

To be sure, he said.

Well, which is most honourable at the writing-master's, to write the same sort of letters quickly or quietly ?

Quickly.

And in reading, to do it quickly or slowly ?

Quickly.

And so, in the same way, to play the lyre quickly, or to wrestle nimbly, is far more honourable than to do it quietly and slowly ?

Yes.

And what of boxing, alone or combined with wrestling ? Is it not the same there too ?

To be sure.

And in running and leaping and all activities of the body, are not nimble and quick movements accounted honourable, while sluggish and quiet ones are deemed disgraceful ?

Apparently.

So we find, I said, that in the body, at least, it is not quietness, but the greatest quickness and nimbleness that is most honourable, do we not ?

Certainly.

And temperance was an honourable thing ?

Yes.

Οὐ τοίνυν κατά γε τὸ σῶμα ἢ ἡσυχιότης ἂν ἀλλ' ἢ ταχυτῆς σωφρονέστερον εἴη, ἐπειδὴ καλὸν ἢ σωφροσύνη.

Ἔοικεν, ἔφη.

Ε Τί δέ; ἦν δ' ἐγώ, εὐμαθία κάλλιον ἢ δυσμαθία; Εὐμάθια.

Ἔστι δέ γ', ἔφην, ἢ μὲν εὐμαθία ταχέως μαθάνειν, ἢ δὲ δυσμαθία ἡσυχῇ καὶ βραδέως;

Ναί.

Διδάσκειν δὲ ἄλλον οὐ ταχέως κάλλιον καὶ σφόδρα μᾶλλον ἢ ἡσυχῇ τε καὶ βραδέως;

Ναί.

Τί δέ; ἀναμιμνήσκεισθαι καὶ μεμνησθαι ἡσυχῇ τε καὶ βραδέως κάλλιον ἢ σφόδρα καὶ ταχέως;

Σφόδρ', ἔφη, καὶ ταχέως.

160 Ἡ δ' ἀγχίνοια οὐχὶ ὀξύτης τίς ἐστι τῆς ψυχῆς, ἀλλ' οὐχὶ ἡσυχία;

Ἀληθῆ.

Οὐκοῦν καὶ τὸ συνιέναι τὰ λεγόμενα, καὶ ἐν γραμματιστοῦ καὶ κιθαριστοῦ καὶ ἄλλοθι πανταχοῦ, οὐχ ὡς ἡσυχαιάτατα ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα ἐστι κάλλιστα;

Ναί.

Ἀλλὰ μὴν ἐν γε ταῖς ζητήσεσι τῆς ψυχῆς καὶ τῷ βουλευέσθαι οὐχ ὁ ἡσυχιώτατος,<sup>1</sup> ὡς ἐγὼ οἶμαι, καὶ μόγις βουλευόμενός τε καὶ ἀνευρίσκων ἐπαίνου δοκεῖ ἄξιος εἶναι, ἀλλ' ὁ ῥᾶστά τε καὶ τάχιστα τοῦτο δρῶν.

Β Ἔστι ταῦτα, ἔφη.

Οὐκοῦν πάντα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ Χαρμίδη, ἡμῖν καὶ τὰ περὶ τὴν ψυχὴν καὶ τὰ περὶ τὸ σῶμα, τὰ τοῦ

<sup>1</sup> ἡσυχιώτατος Cobet: ἡσυχώτατος MSS.

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Then in the body, at least, it is not quietness but quickness that will be the more temperate thing, since temperance is honourable.

So it seems, he said.

Well now, I went on ; in learning, is facility the more honourable, or difficulty ?

Facility.

And facility in learning, I said, is learning quickly, and difficulty in learning is learning quietly and slowly ?

Yes.

And is it not more honourable to teach another quickly and forcibly, rather than quietly and slowly ?

Yes.

Well now, is it more honourable to be reminded and to remember quietly and slowly, or forcibly and quickly ?

Forcibly, he replied, and quickly.

And is not readiness of mind a sort of nimbleness of the soul, not a quietness ?

True.

And to apprehend what is said, whether at the writing-master's or the lyre-master's or anywhere else, not as quietly as possible, but as quickly, is most honourable ?

Yes.

Well, and in the searchings of the soul, and in deliberation, it is not the quietest person, I imagine, or he who deliberates and discovers with difficulty, that is held worthy of praise, but he who does this most easily and quickly.

That is so, he said.

Then in all, I said, Charmides, that concerns either our soul or our body, actions of quickness and

τάχους τε καὶ τῆς ὀξύτητος καλλίω φαίνεται ἢ τὰ τῆς βραδυτητός τε καὶ ἡσυχιότητος;

Κινδυνεύει, ἔφη.

- Οὐκ ἄρα ἡσυχιότης τις ἢ σωφροσύνη ἂν εἴη, οὐδ' ἡσύχιος ὁ σώφρων βίος, ἔκ γε τούτου τοῦ λόγου, ἐπειδὴ καλὸν αὐτὸν δεῖ εἶναι σώφρονα ὄντα.
- C δυοῖν γὰρ δὴ τὰ ἕτερα, ἢ οὐδαμοῦ ἡμῖν ἢ πάνυ που ὀλιγαχοῦ αἱ ἡσύχιοι πράξεις ἐν τῷ βίῳ καλλίους ἐφάνησαν ἢ αἱ ταχειαί τε καὶ ἰσχυραί. εἰ δ' οὖν, ὦ φίλε, ὅτι μάλιστα μηδὲν ἐλάττους αἱ ἡσύχιοι τῶν σφοδρῶν τε καὶ ταχειῶν πράξεων τυγχάνουσι καλλίους οὔσαι, οὐδὲ ταύτη σωφροσύνη ἂν εἴη μᾶλλον τι τὸ ἡσυχῆ πράττειν ἢ τὸ σφόδρα τε καὶ ταχέως, οὔτε ἐν βαδισμῷ οὔτε ἐν λέξει οὔτε ἄλλοθι οὐδαμοῦ, οὐδὲ ὁ ἡσύχιος βίος [κόσμιος]<sup>1</sup> τοῦ μὴ ἡσυχίου σωφρονέστερος ἂν εἴη, ἐπειδὴ
- D ἐν τῷ λόγῳ τῶν καλῶν τι ἡμῖν ἢ σωφροσύνη ὑπετέθη, καλὰ δὲ οὐχ ἦττον τὰ ταχέα τῶν ἡσυχίων πέφανται.

Ὅρθῶς μοι δοκεῖς, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, εἰρηκέναι.

Πάλιν τοίνυν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ Χαρμίδη, μᾶλλον προσέχων τὸν νοῦν καὶ εἰς σεαυτὸν ἐμβλέψας,<sup>2</sup> ἐννοήσας ὁποῖόν τινά σε ποιεῖ ἢ σωφροσύνη παροῦσα καὶ ποία τις οὔσα τοιοῦτον ἀπεργάζοιτο ἂν, πάντα ταῦτα συλλογισάμενος εἶπέ εὔ καὶ ἀνδρείως, τί σοι φαίνεται εἶναι.

- E Καὶ ὅς ἐπισχὼν καὶ πάνυ ἀνδρικῶς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν διασκεψάμενος, Δοκεῖ τοίνυν μοι, ἔφη, αἰσχύνεσθαι ποιεῖν ἢ σωφροσύνη καὶ αἰσχυνητλὸν τὸν ἄνθρωπον, καὶ εἶναι ὅπερ αἰδῶς ἢ σωφροσύνη.

<sup>1</sup> κόσμιος secl. Heindorf.

<sup>2</sup> ἐμβλέψας Burnet: ἀπεμβλέψας, ἀποβλέψας mss.



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nimbleness are found to be more honourable than those of slowness and quietness ?

It looks like it, he said.

So temperance cannot be a sort of quietness, nor can the temperate life be quiet, by this argument at least ; since, being temperate, it must be honourable. For we have these two alternatives : either in no cases, or I should think in very few, can we find that the quiet actions in life are more honourable than the quick and vigorous ones ; or at all events, my friend, if of the more honourable actions there are absolutely as many quiet ones as forcible and quick, not even so will temperance be acting quietly any more than acting forcibly and quickly, either in walking or in talking or in any other sphere ; nor will the quiet life be more temperate than the unquiet ; since in our argument we assumed that temperance is an honourable thing, and have found that quick things are just as honourable as quiet things.

Your statement, he said, Socrates, seems to me to be correct.

Once more then, I went on, Charmides, attend more closely and look into yourself ; reflect on the quality that is given you by the presence of temperance, and what quality it must have to work this effect on you. Take stock of all this and tell me, like a good, brave fellow, what it appears to you to be.

He paused a little, and after a quite manly effort of self-examination : Well, I think, he said, that temperance makes men ashamed or bashful, and that temperance is the same as modesty.

Εἶτα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, οὐ καλὸν ἄρτι ὠμολόγεις τὴν σωφροσύνην εἶναι;

Πάνυ γ', ἔφη.

Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἀγαθοὶ ἄνδρες οἱ σώφρονες;

Ναί.

Ἄρ' οὖν ἂν εἶη ἀγαθόν, ὃ μὴ ἀγαθοὺς ἀπεργάζεται;

Οὐ δῆτα.

Οὐ μόνον οὖν ἄρα καλόν, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀγαθόν ἐστίν.

161 Ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ.

Τί οὖν; ἦν δ' ἐγώ· Ὀμήρω οὐ πιστεύεις καλῶς λέγειν, λέγοντι ὅτι

αἰδῶς δ' οὐκ ἀγαθὴ κεχρημένω ἀνδρὶ παρεῖναι;

Ἐγωγ', ἔφη.

Ἔστιν ἄρα, ὡς ἔοικεν, αἰδῶς οὐκ ἀγαθὸν καὶ ἀγαθόν.

Φαίνεται.

Σωφροσύνη δέ γε ἀγαθόν, εἶπερ ἀγαθοὺς ποιεῖ οἷς ἂν παρῆ, κακοὺς δὲ μὴ.

Ἄλλὰ μὴν οὕτω γε δοκεῖ μοι ἔχειν, ὡς σὺ λέγεις.

Οὐκ ἄρα σωφροσύνη ἂν εἶη αἰδῶς, εἶπερ τὸ μὲν Β ἀγαθὸν τυγχάνει ὄν, αἰδῶς δὲ [μὴ]<sup>1</sup> οὐδὲν μᾶλλον ἀγαθὸν ἢ καὶ κακόν.

Ἄλλ' ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, τοῦτο μὲν ὀρθῶς λέγεσθαι· τόδε δὲ σκέψαι τί σοι δοκεῖ εἶναι περὶ σωφροσύνης. ἄρτι γὰρ ἀνεμνήσθην ὃ ἦδη του ἠκουσα λέγοντος, ὅτι σωφροσύνη ἂν εἶη τὸ τὰ ἑαυτοῦ πράττειν. σκόπει οὖν τοῦτο εἰ ὀρθῶς σοι δοκεῖ λέγειν ὃ λέγων.

Καὶ ἐγώ, ὦ μιარέ, ἔφην, Κριτίου τοῦδε ἀκήκοας C αὐτὸ ἢ ἄλλου του τῶν σοφῶν.

<sup>1</sup> μὴ secl. Ast.

## CHARMIDES

Well now, I asked, did you not admit a moment ago that temperance is honourable ?

Certainly I did, he said.

And temperate men are also good ?

Yes.

Well, can that be good which does not produce good men ?

No, indeed.

And we conclude that it is not only honourable, but good also.

I think so.

Well then, I said, are you not convinced that Homer <sup>1</sup> is right in saying—

Modesty, no good mate for a needy man ?

I am, he said.

Then it would seem that modesty is not good, and good.

Apparently.

But temperance is good, if its presence makes men good, and not bad.

It certainly seems to me to be as you say.

So temperance cannot be modesty, if it is in fact good, while modesty is no more good than evil.

Why, I think, he said, Socrates, that is correctly stated ; but there is another view of temperance on which I would like to have your opinion. I remembered just now what I once heard someone say, that temperance might be doing one's own business. I ask you, then, do you think he is right in saying this ?

You rascal, I said, you have heard it from Critias here, or some other of our wise men !

<sup>1</sup> *Od.* xvii. 347.

Ἔοικεν, ἔφη ὁ Κριτίας, ἄλλου· οὐ γὰρ δὴ ἐμοῦ γε.  
Ἄλλὰ τί διαφέρει, ἦ δ' ὅς, ὁ Χαρμίδης, ὦ  
Σώκρατες, ὅτου ἤκουσα;

Οὐδέν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· πάντως γὰρ οὐ τοῦτο σκεπτέον,  
ὅστις αὐτὸ εἶπεν, ἀλλὰ πότερον ἀληθὲς λέγεται  
ἢ οὗ.

Νῦν ὀρθῶς λέγεις, ἦ δ' ὅς.

Νῆ Δία, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· ἀλλ' εἰ καὶ εὐρήσομεν αὐτὸ  
ὅπῃ γε ἔχει, θαυμάζοιμ' ἄν· αἰνίγματι γάρ τινι  
ἔοικεν.

Ὅτι δὴ τί γε; ἔφη.

Ὅτι οὐ δήπου, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἦ τὰ ῥήματα ἐφθέγγατο,  
D ταύτη καὶ ἐνόει ὁ λέγων σωφροσύνην εἶναι τὸ τὰ  
αὐτοῦ πράττειν. ἦ σὺ οὐδὲν ἡγῆ πράττειν τὸν  
γραμματιστήν, ὅταν γράφῃ ἢ ἀναγιγνώσκῃ;

Ἐγωγε, ἡγοῦμαι μὲν οὖν, ἔφη.

Δοκεῖ οὖν σοι τὸ αὐτοῦ ὄνομα μόνον γράφειν ὁ  
γραμματιστῆς καὶ ἀναγιγνώσκειν, ἦ ὑμᾶς τοὺς  
παῖδας διδάσκειν, ἦ οὐδὲν ἦττον τὰ τῶν ἐχθρῶν  
ἐγράφετε ἢ τὰ ὑμέτερα καὶ τὰ τῶν φίλων ὀνόματα;

Οὐδὲν ἦττον.

Ἡ οὖν ἐπολυπραγμονεῖτε καὶ οὐκ ἐσωφρονεῖτε  
E τοῦτο δρῶντες;

Οὐδαμῶς.

Καὶ μὴν οὐ τὰ ὑμέτερά γε αὐτῶν ἐπράττετε,  
εἴπερ τὸ γράφειν πράττειν τί ἐστι καὶ τὸ ἀναγιγνώ-  
σκειν.

Ἄλλὰ μὴν ἔστιν.

Καὶ γὰρ τὸ ἰᾶσθαι, ὦ ἑταῖρε, καὶ τὸ οἰκοδομεῖν  
καὶ τὸ ὑφαίνειν καὶ τὸ ἡτινιοῦν τέχνῃ ὅτιοῦν τῶν  
τέχνης ἔργων ἀπεργάζεσθαι πράττειν δήπου τί  
ἐστιν.

## CHARMIDES

Seemingly, said Critias, from some other; for indeed he did not from me.

But what does it matter, Socrates, said Charmides, from whom I heard it?

Not at all, I replied; for in any case we have not to consider who said it, but whether it is a true saying or no.

Now you speak rightly, he said.

Yes, on my word, I said: but I shall be surprised if we can find out how it stands; for it looks like a kind of riddle.

Why so? he asked.

Because, I replied, presumably the speaker of the words "temperance is doing one's own business" did not mean them quite as he spoke them. Or do you consider that the scribe does nothing when he writes or reads?

I rather consider that he does something, he replied.

And does the scribe, in your opinion, write and read his own name only, and teach you boys to do the same with yours? Or did you write your enemies' names just as much as your own and your friends'?

Just as much.

Well, were you meddlesome or intemperate in doing this?

Not at all.

And you know you were not doing your own business, if writing and reading are doing something.

Why, so they are.

And indeed medical work, my good friend, and building and weaving and producing anything whatever that is the work of any art, I presume is doing something.

Πάνυ γε.

Τί οὖν; ἦν δ' ἐγώ, δοκεῖ ἄν σοι πόλις εὖ οἰκεῖσθαι ὑπὸ τούτου τοῦ νόμου τοῦ κελεύοντος τὸ ἑαυτοῦ ἱμάτιον ἕκαστον ὑφαίνειν καὶ πλύνειν, καὶ ὑποδήματα σκυτοτομεῖν, καὶ λήκνυθον καὶ στλεγ-  
 162 γίδα καὶ τᾶλλα πάντα κατὰ τὸν αὐτὸν λόγον, τῶν μὲν ἀλλοτρίων μὴ ἄπτεσθαι, τὰ δὲ ἑαυτοῦ ἕκαστον ἐργάζεσθαι τε καὶ πράττειν;

Οὐκ ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ, ἦ δ' ὅς.

Ἄλλα μέντοι, ἔφην ἐγώ, σωφρόνως γε οἰκοῦσα εὖ ἂν οἰκοῖτο.

Πῶς δ' οὐκ; ἔφη.

Οὐκ ἄρα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, τὸ τὰ τοιαῦτά τε καὶ οὕτω τὰ αὐτοῦ πράττειν σωφροσύνη ἂν εἴη.

Οὐ φαίνεται.

Ἡνίττετο ἄρα, ὡς ἔοικεν, ὅπερ ἄρτι ἐγὼ ἔλεγον, ὁ λέγων τὸ τὰ αὐτοῦ πράττειν σωφροσύνην εἶναι· οὐ γάρ που οὕτω γε ἦν εὐνήθης· ἢ τινος ἠλιθίου  
 Β ἠήκουσας τουτὶ λέγοντος, ὦ Χαρμίδη;

Ἦκιστά γε, ἔφη, ἐπεὶ τοι καὶ πάνυ ἐδόκει σοφὸς εἶναι.

Παντὸς τοίνυν μᾶλλον, ὡς ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ, αἰνιγμα αὐτὸ προὔβαλεν, ὡς ὃν χαλεπὸν τὸ τὰ αὐτοῦ πράττειν γνῶναι ὃ τί ποτε ἔστιν.

Ἴσως, ἔφη.

Τί οὖν ἂν εἴη ποτὲ τὸ τὰ αὐτοῦ πράττειν; ἔχεις εἰπεῖν;

Οὐκ οἶδα μὰ Δί' ἐγωγε, ἦ δ' ὅς· ἀλλ' ἴσως οὐδὲν κωλύει μηδὲ τὸν λέγοντα μηδὲν εἰδέναι ὃ τι ἐνόει.

## CHARMIDES

Certainly.

Well then, I went on, do you think a state would be well conducted under a law which enjoined that everyone should weave and scour his own coat, and make his own shoes, and his own flask and scraper,<sup>1</sup> and everything else on the same principle of not touching the affairs of others but performing and doing his own for himself?

I think not, he replied.

But still, I said, a state whose conduct is temperate will be well conducted.

Of course, he said.

Then doing one's own business in that sense and in that way will not be temperance.

Apparently not.

So that person was riddling, it seems, just as I said a moment ago, when he said that doing one's own business is temperance. For I take it he was not such a fool as all that: or was it some idiot that you heard saying this, Charmides?

Far from it, he replied, for indeed he seemed to be very wise.

Then it is perfectly certain, in my opinion, that he propounded it as a riddle, in view of the difficulty of understanding what "doing one's own business" can mean.

I daresay, he said.

Well, what can it mean, this "doing one's own business"? Can you tell me?

I do not know, upon my word, he replied: but I daresay it may be that not even he who said it knew

<sup>1</sup> The flask contained oil for anointing the body before exercise, and the scraper was for scraping it afterwards, or at the bath.

## PLATO

καὶ ἅμα ταῦτα λέγων ὑπεγέλα τε καὶ εἰς τὸν Κριτίαν ἀπέβλεπεν.

C Καὶ ὁ Κριτίας δῆλος μὲν ἦν καὶ πάλαι ἀγωνιῶν καὶ φιλοτίμως πρὸς τε τὸν Χαρμίδην καὶ πρὸς τοὺς παρόντας ἔχων, μόγις δ' ἑαυτὸν ἐν τῷ πρόσθεν κατέχων τότε οὐχ οἴός τε ἐγένετο· δοκεῖ γάρ μοι παντὸς μᾶλλον ἀληθὲς εἶναι, ὃ ἐγὼ ὑπέλαβον, τοῦ Κριτίου ἀκηκοέναι τὸν Χαρμίδην ταύτην τὴν ἀπόκρισιν περὶ τῆς σωφροσύνης. ὁ μὲν οὖν Χαρμίδης βουλόμενος μὴ αὐτὸς ὑπέχειν λόγον ἀλλ'

D ἐκεῖνον τῆς ἀποκρίσεως, ὑπεκίνει αὐτὸν ἐκεῖνον, καὶ ἐνεδεικνυτο ὡς ἐξεληλεγμένος εἶη· ὁ δ' οὐκ ἠνέσχετο, ἀλλὰ μοι ἔδοξεν ὀργισθῆναι αὐτῷ ὥσπερ ποιητῆς ὑποκριτῆ κακῶς διατιθέντι τὰ ἑαυτοῦ ποιήματα· ὥστ' ἐμβλέψας αὐτῷ εἶπεν, Οὕτως οἶε, ὦ Χαρμίδη, εἰ σὺ μὴ οἴσθα ὃ τί ποτ' ἐνόει ὃς ἔφη σωφροσύνην εἶναι τὸ τὰ ἑαυτοῦ πράττειν, οὐδὲ δὴ ἐκεῖνον εἰδέναι;

Ἄλλ', ὦ βέλτιστε, ἔφη ἐγώ, Κριτία, τοῦτον μὲν οὐδὲν θαυμαστὸν ἀγνοεῖν τηλικούτον ὄντα· σέ δέ E που εἰκὸς εἰδέναι καὶ ἡλικίας ἔνεκα καὶ ἐπιμελείας. εἰ οὖν συγχωρεῖς τοῦτ' εἶναι σωφροσύνην ὅπερ οὔτοσί λέγει, καὶ παραδέχη τὸν λόγον, ἔγωγε πολὺ ἂν ἡδῖον μετὰ σοῦ σκοποίμην, εἴτ' ἀληθὲς εἶτε μὴ τὸ λεχθέν.

Ἄλλὰ πάνυ συγχωρῶ, ἔφη, καὶ παραδέχομαι.

Καλῶς γε σὺ τοίνυν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ποιῶν. καί μοι λέγε, ἦ καὶ ἄ νῦν δὴ ἡρώτων ἐγὼ συγχωρεῖς, τοὺς δημιουργοὺς πάντας ποιεῖν τι;

Ἐγωγε.

Ἦ οὖν δοκοῦσί σοι τὰ ἑαυτῶν μόνον ποιεῖν ἢ καὶ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων;



## CHARMIDES

in the least what he meant. And as he said this he gave a sly laugh and glanced at Critias.

Now Critias for some time had been plainly burning with anxiety to distinguish himself in the eyes of Charmides and the company, and having with difficulty restrained himself heretofore, he now could do so no longer; for I believe that what I had supposed was perfectly true—that Charmides had heard this answer about temperance from Critias. And so Charmides, wishing him to make answer instead of himself, sought to stir him up in particular, and pointed out that he himself had been refuted; but Critias rebelled against it, and seemed to me to have got angry with him, as a poet does with an actor who mishandles his verses on the stage: so he looked hard at him and said: Do you really suppose, Charmides, that if you do not know what can have been the meaning of the man who said that temperance was doing one's own business, he did not know either?

Why, my excellent Critias, I said, no wonder if our friend, at his age, cannot understand; but you, I should think, may be expected to know, in view of your years and your studies. So if you concede that temperance is what he says, and you accept the statement, for my part I would greatly prefer to have you as partner in the inquiry as to whether this saying is true or not.

Well, I quite concede it, he said, and accept it.

That is good, then, I said. Now tell me, do you also concede what I was asking just now—that all craftsmen make something?

I do.

And do you consider that they make their own things only, or those of others also?

163 Καὶ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων.

Σωφρονοῦσιν οὖν οὐ τὰ ἑαυτῶν μόνον ποιοῦντες.  
Τί γὰρ κωλύει; ἔφη.

Οὐδὲν ἐμέ γε, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· ἀλλ' ὄρα μὴ ἐκείνον κωλύει, ὃς ὑποθέμενος σωφροσύνην εἶναι τὸ τὰ ἑαυτοῦ πράττειν ἔπειτα οὐδὲν φησι κωλύειν καὶ τοὺς τὰ τῶν ἄλλων πράττοντας σωφρονεῖν.

Ἐγὼ γάρ που, ἦ δ' ὅς, τοῦθ' ὠμολόγηκα, ὡς οἱ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων πράττοντες σωφρονοῦσιν, ἢ τοὺς ποιοῦντας ὠμολόγησα;

Εἰπέ μοι, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, οὐ ταῦτόν καλεῖς τὸ ποιεῖν καὶ τὸ πράττειν;

B Οὐ μέντοι, ἔφη· οὐδέ γε τὸ ἐργάζεσθαι καὶ τὸ ποιεῖν. ἔμαθον γὰρ παρ' Ἡσιόδου, ὃς ἔφη, ἔργον δ' οὐδὲν εἶναι ὄνειδος. οἶε οὖν αὐτόν, εἰ τὰ τοιαῦτα ἔργα ἐκάλει καὶ ἐργάζεσθαι καὶ πράττειν, οἷα νῦν δὴ σὺ ἔλεγες, οὐδενὶ ἂν ὄνειδος φάναι εἶναι σκυτοτομοῦντι ἢ ταριχοπωλοῦντι ἢ ἐπ' οἰκήματος καθημένῳ; οὐκ οἶεσθαί γε χρή, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἀλλὰ καὶ

C ἐκεῖνος, οἶμαι, ποιήσιν πράξεως καὶ ἐργασίας ἄλλο ἐνόμιζε, καὶ ποιήματα μὲν γίνεσθαι ὄνειδος ἐνίστε, ὅταν μὴ μετὰ τοῦ καλοῦ γίγνηται, ἔργον δὲ οὐδέποτε οὐδὲν ὄνειδος· τὰ γὰρ καλῶς τε καὶ ὠφελίμως ποιούμενα ἔργα ἐκάλει, καὶ ἐργασίας τε καὶ πράξεις τὰς τοιαύτας ποιήσεις. φάναι δέ γε χρή καὶ οἰκεία μόναι τὰ τοιαῦτα ἡγεῖσθαι αὐτόν, τὰ δὲ βλαβερὰ πάντα ἀλλότρια· ὥστε καὶ Ἡσιόδον χρή οἶεσθαι καὶ ἄλλον, ὅστις φρόνιμος, τὸν τὰ αὐτοῦ πράττοντα τοῦτον σώφρονα καλεῖν.

<sup>1</sup> The Greek word ποιεῖν ("make") can also mean the same as πράττειν ("do").

## CHARMIDES

Those of others also.

And are they temperate in not making their own things only ?

Yes : what reason is there against it ? he said.

None for me, I replied ; but there may be for him who, after assuming that temperance is doing one's own business, proceeds to say there is no reason against those also who do others' business being temperate.

And have I, pray, he said, admitted that those who do others' business are temperate ? Or was my admission of those who *make*<sup>1</sup> things ?

Tell me, I said, do you not call making and doing the same ?

No indeed, he replied, nor working and making the same either : this I learnt from Hesiod,<sup>2</sup> who said, " Work is no reproach." Now, do you suppose that if he had given the names of working and doing to such works as you were mentioning just now, he would have said there was no reproach in shoe-making or pickle-selling or serving the stews ? It is not to be thought, Socrates ; he rather held, I conceive, that making was different from doing and working, and that while a thing made might be a reproach if it had no connexion with the honourable, work could never be a reproach. For things honourably and usefully made he called works, and such makings he called workings and doings ; and we must suppose that it was only such things as these that he called our proper concerns, but all that was harmful, the concerns of others. So that we must conclude that Hesiod, and anyone else of good sense, calls him temperate who does his own business.

<sup>2</sup> *Works and Days*, 309.

D ὦ Κριτία, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, καὶ εὐθύς ἀρχομένου σου σχεδὸν ἐμάνθανον τὸν λόγον, ὅτι τὰ οἰκειὰ τε καὶ τὰ αὐτοῦ ἀγαθὰ καλοίης, καὶ τὰς τῶν ἀγαθῶν ποιήσεις πράξεις· καὶ γὰρ Προδίκου μυρία τινὰ ἀκήκοα περὶ ὀνομάτων διαιρουῦντος. ἀλλ' ἐγώ σοι τίθεσθαι μὲν τῶν ὀνομάτων δίδωμι ὅπῃ ἂν βούλη ἕκαστον· δήλου δὲ μόνον ἐφ' ὅ τι ἂν φέρῃς τοῦνομα ὅ τι ἂν λέγῃς. νῦν οὖν πάλιν ἐξ ἀρχῆς σαφέστερον

E ὄρισαι· ἄρα τὴν τῶν ἀγαθῶν πρᾶξιν ἢ ποιήσιν ἢ ὅπως σὺ βούλει ὀνομάζεις, ταύτην λέγεις σὺ σωφροσύνην εἶναι;

Ἔγωγε, ἔφη.

Οὐκ ἄρα σωφρονεῖ ὁ τὰ κακὰ πράττων, ἀλλ' ὁ τὰ ἀγαθὰ;

Σοὶ δέ, ἦ δ' ὅς, ὦ βέλτιστε, οὐχ οὕτω δοκεῖ;

Ἔα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· μὴ γάρ πω τὸ ἐμοὶ δοκοῦν σκοπῶμεν, ἀλλ' ὁ σὺ λέγεις νῦν.

Ἄλλὰ μέντοι ἔγωγε, ἔφη, τὸν μὴ ἀγαθὰ ἀλλὰ κακὰ ποιοῦντα οὐ φημι σωφρονεῖν, τὸν δὲ ἀγαθὰ ἀλλὰ μὴ κακὰ σωφρονεῖν· τὴν γὰρ τῶν ἀγαθῶν πρᾶξιν σωφροσύνην εἶναι σαφῶς σοι διορίζομαι.

164 Καὶ οὐδέν γέ σε ἴσως κωλύει ἀληθῆ λέγειν· τότε γε μέντοι, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, θαυμάζω, εἰ σωφρονοῦντας ἀνθρώπους ἡγῆ σὺ ἀγνοεῖν ὅτι σωφρονοῦσιν.

Ἄλλ' οὐχ ἡγοῦμαι, ἔφη.

Οὐκ ὀλίγον πρότερον, ἔφην ἐγώ, ἐλέγετο ὑπὸ σοῦ, ὅτι τοὺς δημιουργοὺς οὐδέν κωλύει καὶ αὐτὰ τῶν ἄλλων ποιοῦντας σωφρονεῖν;

Ἐλέγετο γάρ, ἔφη· ἀλλὰ τί τοῦτο;

Οὐδέν· ἀλλὰ λέγε εἰ δοκεῖ τίς σοι ἰατρός, ὑγιᾶ

<sup>1</sup> "Names" here includes any substantive words such as πράξεις.

## CHARMIDES

Ah, Critias, I said, you had hardly begun, when I grasped the purport of your speech—that you called one's proper and one's own things good, and that the makings of the good you called doings; for in fact I have heard Prodicus drawing innumerable distinctions between names.<sup>1</sup> Well, I will allow you any application of a name that you please; only make clear to what thing it is that you attach such-and-such a name. So begin now over again, and define more plainly. Do you say that this doing or making, or whatever is the term you prefer, of good things, is temperance?

I do, he replied.

Then not he who does evil, but he who does good, is temperate?

And do not you, my excellent friend, he said, think so?

Leave that aside, I said; for we have not to consider yet what I think, but what you say now.

Well, all the same, I say, he replied, that he who does evil instead of good is not temperate, whereas he who does good instead of evil is temperate: for I give you "the doing of good things is temperance" as my plain definition.

And there is no reason, I daresay, why your statement should not be right; but still I wonder, I went on, whether you judge that temperate men are ignorant of their temperance.

No, I do not, he said.

A little while ago, I said, were you not saying that there was no reason why craftsmen should not be temperate in making others' things as well?

Yes, I was, he said, but what of it?

Nothing; only tell me whether you think that a

## PLATO

Β τινὰ ποιῶν, ὠφέλιμα καὶ ἑαυτῷ ποιεῖν καὶ ἐκείνῳ ὄν ἰῶτο;

Ἔμοιγε.

Οὐκοῦν τὰ δέοντα πράττει ὃ γε ταῦτα πράττων;

Ναί.

Ὅ τὰ δέοντα πράττων οὐ σωφρονεῖ;

Σωφρονεῖ μὲν οὖν.

Ἡ οὖν καὶ γινώσκειν ἀνάγκη τῷ ἰατρῷ ὅταν τε ὠφελίμως ἰᾶται καὶ ὅταν μῆ; καὶ ἐκάστῳ τῶν δημιουργῶν, ὅταν τε μέλλῃ ὀνήσασθαι ἀπὸ τοῦ ἔργου οὐ ἂν πράττη, καὶ ὅταν μῆ;

Ἴσως οὐ.

Ἐνίστε ἄρα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὠφελίμως πράξας ἢ βλαβερῶς ὁ ἰατρὸς οὐ γινώσκει ἑαυτὸν ὡς ἔπραξεν· καίτοι ὠφελίμως πράξας, ὡς ὁ σὸς λόγος, σωφρόνως ἔπραξεν· ἢ οὐχ οὕτως ἔλεγες;

Ἐγωγε.

Οὐκοῦν, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐνίστε ὠφελίμως πράξας πράττει μὲν σωφρόνως καὶ σωφρονεῖ, ἀγνοεῖ δ' ἑαυτὸν ὅτι σωφρονεῖ;

Ἄλλὰ τοῦτο μὲν, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐκ ἂν ποτε γένοιτο, ἀλλ' εἴ τι σὺ οἶει ἐκ τῶν ἔμπροσθεν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ ὠμολογημένων εἰς τοῦτο ἀναγκαῖον εἶναι συμβαίνειν, ἐκείνων ἂν τι ἔγωγε μᾶλλον ἀναθείμην, καὶ οὐκ ἂν αἰσχυνθείην ὅτι μῆ οὐχὶ ὀρθῶς φάναί εἰρηκέσαι, μᾶλλον ἢ ποτε συγχωρήσαιμ' ἂν ἀγνοοῦντα αὐτὸν ἑαυτὸν ἀνθρώπον σωφρονεῖν. σχεδὸν γάρ τι ἔγωγε αὐτὸ τοῦτό φημι εἶναι σωφροσύνην, τὸ γινώσκειν ἑαυτόν, καὶ συμφέρομαι τῷ ἐν Δελφοῖς ἀναθέντι τὸ τοιοῦτον γράμμα. καὶ γὰρ τοῦτο οὕτω μοι δοκεῖ τὸ γράμμα ἀνακεῖσθαι, ὡς δὴ πρόσρησις οὔσα τοῦ θεοῦ τῶν εἰσιόντων ἀντὶ τοῦ

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doctor, in making someone healthy, makes a helpful result both for himself and for the person whom he cures.

I do.

And he who does this does his duty ?

Yes.

Is not he who does his duty temperate ?

Indeed he is.

Well, and must the doctor know when his medicine will be helpful, and when not ? And must every craftsman know when he is likely to be benefited by the work he does, and when not ?

Probably not.

Then sometimes, I went on, the doctor may have done what is helpful or harmful without knowing the effect of his own action ; and yet, in doing what was helpful, by your statement, he has done temperately. Or did you not state that ?

I did.

Then it would seem that in doing what is helpful he may sometimes do temperately and be temperate, but be ignorant of his own temperance ?

But that, he said, Socrates, could never be : if you think this in any way a necessary inference from my previous admissions, I would rather withdraw some of them, and not be ashamed to say my statements were wrong, than concede at any time that a man who is ignorant of himself is temperate. For I would almost say that this very thing, self-knowledge, is temperance, and I am at one with him who put up the inscription of those words at Delphi. For the purpose of that inscription on the temple, as it seems to me, is to serve as the god's salutation to those who

Ε χαίρει, ὡς τούτου μὲν οὐκ ὀρθοῦ ὄντος τοῦ προσρή-  
 ματος, τοῦ χαίρειν, οὐδὲ δεῖν τοῦτο παρακελεύεσθαι  
 ἀλλήλοις ἀλλὰ σωφρονεῖν. οὕτω μὲν δὴ ὁ θεὸς  
 προσαγορεύει τοὺς εἰσιόντας εἰς τὸ ἱερόν διαφέρον  
 τι ἢ οἱ ἄνθρωποι, ὡς διανοούμενος ἀνέθηκεν ὁ  
 ἀναθεῖς, ὡς μοι δοκεῖ· καὶ λέγει πρὸς τὸν αἰεὶ  
 εἰσιόντα οὐκ ἄλλο τι ἢ σωφρόνει, φησίν. αἰνιγμα-  
 τωδέστερον δὲ δὴ, ὡς μάντις, λέγει· τὸ γὰρ γνῶθι  
 165 σαυτὸν καὶ τὸ σωφρόνει ἔστι μὲν ταυτόν, ὡς τὰ  
 γράμματά φησι καὶ ἐγώ, τάχα δ' ἂν τις οἰηθείη  
 ἄλλο εἶναι, ὃ δὴ μοι δοκοῦσι παθεῖν καὶ οἱ τὰ  
 ὕστερον γράμματα ἀναθέντες, τό τε μηδὲν ἄγαν  
 καὶ τὸ ἐγγύη πάρα δ' ἄτη. καὶ γὰρ οὗτοι συμ-  
 βουλήν ᾤήθησαν εἶναι τὸ γνῶθι σαυτὸν, ἀλλ' οὐ  
 τῶν εἰσιόντων [ἐνεκεν]<sup>1</sup> ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ πρόσρησιν·  
 εἶθ' ἵνα δὴ καὶ σφεῖς μηδὲν ἥττον συμβουλάς  
 χρησίμους ἀναθεῖεν, ταῦτα γράψαντες ἀνέθεσαν. οὐ  
 δὴ οὖν ἔνεκα λέγω, ὦ Σώκρατες, ταῦτα πάντα,  
 τόδ' ἐστί· τὰ μὲν ἔμπροσθέν σοι πάντα ἀφήμι·  
 Β ἴσως μὲν γάρ τι σὺ ἔλεγες περὶ αὐτῶν ὀρθότερον,  
 ἴσως δ' ἐγώ, σαφὲς δ' οὐδὲν πάνυ ἦν ὧν ἐλέγομεν·  
 νῦν δ' ἐθέλω τούτου σοι διδόναι λόγον, εἰ μὴ  
 ὁμολογεῖς σωφροσύνην εἶναι τὸ γινώσκειν αὐτὸν  
 ἑαυτὸν.

Ἄλλ', ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ Κριτία, σὺ μὲν ὡς φάσκοντος  
 ἐμοῦ εἰδέναι, περὶ ὧν ἐρωτῶ, προσφέρῃ πρὸς με,  
 καὶ ἔαν δὴ βούλωμαι, ὁμολογήσοντός σοι<sup>2</sup>. τὸ δ'

<sup>1</sup> ἐνεκεν secl. Cobet.

<sup>2</sup> ὁμολογήσοντός σοι Heusde: ὁμολογήσαντός σου miss.

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this passage there is allusion to the *thought* or *wisdom* implied in σωφρονεῖν, and here Critias seeks to identify φρόνει ("think well," "be wise") with γνῶθι ("know," "understand") in the inscription γνῶθι σαυτὸν at Delphi.



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enter it, instead of "Hail!"—this is a wrong form of greeting, and they should rather exhort one another with the words, "Be temperate!" And thus the god addresses those who are entering his temple in a mode which differs from that of men; such was the intention of the dedicator of the inscription in putting it up, I believe; and that he says to each man who enters, in reality, "Be temperate!" But he says it in a rather riddling fashion, as a prophet would; for "Know thyself!" and "Be temperate!" are the same, as the inscription<sup>1</sup> and I declare, though one is likely enough to think them different—an error into which I consider the dedicators of the later inscriptions fell when they put up "Nothing overmuch"<sup>2</sup> and "A pledge, and thereupon perdition."<sup>3</sup> For they supposed that "Know thyself!" was a piece of advice, and not the god's salutation of those who were entering; and so, in order that their dedications too might equally give pieces of useful advice, they wrote these words and dedicated them. Now my object in saying all this, Socrates, is to abandon to you all the previous argument—for, though perhaps it was you who were more in the right, or perhaps it was I, yet nothing at all certain emerged from our statements—and to proceed instead to satisfy you of this truth, if you do not admit it, that temperance is knowing oneself.

Why, Critias, I said, you treat me as though I professed to know the things on which I ask questions, and needed only the will to agree with you. But the

<sup>2</sup> Μηδὲν ἄγαν appears first in Theognis, 335.

<sup>3</sup> Ἐγγύα πάρα δ' ἄτη, an old saying on the rashness of giving a pledge, is quoted in a fragment of Cratinus, the elder rival of Aristophanes. Cf. Proverbs xi. 15—"He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it."

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οὐχ οὕτως ἔχει, ἀλλὰ ζητῶ γὰρ μετὰ σου αἰεὶ τὸ προτιθέμενον διὰ τὸ μὴ αὐτὸς εἰδέναι· σκεψάμενος οὖν ἐθέλω εἰπεῖν εἴτε ὁμολογῶ εἴτε μή. ἀλλ' ἐπίσχεσ ἕως ἂν σκέψωμαι.

Σκόπει δὴ, ἦ δ' ὅς.

Καὶ γάρ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, σκοπῶ. εἰ γὰρ δὴ γινώσκειν γέ τί ἐστιν ἢ σωφροσύνη, δῆλον ὅτι ἐπιστήμη τις ἂν εἴη καὶ τινός· ἦ οὐ;

Ἔστιν, ἔφη, ἑαυτοῦ γε.

Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἰατρική, ἔφην, ἐπιστήμη ἐστὶ τοῦ ὑγιεινοῦ;

Πάνυ γε.

Εἰ τοίνυν με, ἔφην, ἔροιο σύ, ἰατρικὴ ὑγιεινοῦ ἐπιστήμη οὐσα τί ἡμῖν χρησίμη ἐστὶ καὶ τί ἀπεργάζεται, εἴποισ' ἂν ὅτι οὐ σμικρὰν ὠφέλειαν· τὴν γὰρ ὑγίειαν καλὸν ἡμῖν ἔργον ἀπεργάζεται, εἰ ἀποδέχῃ τοῦτο.

Ἀποδέχομαι.

Καὶ εἰ τοίνυν με ἔροιο τὴν οἰκοδομικὴν, ἐπιστήμην οὐσαν τοῦ οἰκοδομεῖν, τί φημι ἔργον ἀπεργάζεσθαι, εἴποισ' ἂν ὅτι οἰκήσεις· ὡσαύτως δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων τεχνῶν. χρὴ οὖν καὶ σὲ ὑπὲρ τῆς σωφροσύνης, ἐπειδὴ φῆς αὐτὴν ἑαυτοῦ ἐπιστήμην εἶναι, ἔχειν εἰπεῖν ἐρωτηθέντα, ὦ Κριτία, σωφροσύνη, ἐπιστήμη οὐσα ἑαυτοῦ, τί καλὸν ἡμῖν ἔργον ἀπεργάζεται καὶ ἄξιον τοῦ ὀνόματος; ἴθι οὖν, εἰπέ.

Ἄλλ', ὦ Σώκρατες, ἔφη, οὐκ ὀρθῶς ζητεῖς. οὐ γὰρ ὁμοία αὕτη πέφυκε ταῖς ἄλλαις ἐπιστήμαις, οὐδέ γε αἱ ἄλλαι ἄλλαις· σὺ δ' ὡς ὁμοίων οὐσῶν ποιῆ τὴν ζήτησιν. ἐπεὶ λέγε μοι, ἔφη, τῆς λογιστικῆς τέχνης ἢ τῆς γεωμετρικῆς τί ἐστὶ τοιοῦτον ἔργον οἷον οἰκία οἰκοδομικῆς ἢ ἱμάτιον ὑφαντικῆς

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fact of the matter is rather that I join you in the inquiry, each time that a proposition is made, because I myself do not know ; I wish therefore to consider first, before I tell you whether I agree or not. Now, give me a moment to consider.

Consider then, he said.

Yes, and I am considering, I said. For if temperance is knowing anything, obviously it must be a kind of science, and a science of something, must it not ?

It is, he replied, and of itself.

And medicine, I said, is a science of health ?

Certainly.

Then if you should ask me, I said, wherein medicine, as a science of health, is useful to us, and what it produces, I should say it is of very great benefit, since it produces health ; an excellent result, if you allow so much.

I allow it.

And so, if you should ask me what result I take to be produced by building, as the builder's science, I should say houses ; and it would be the same with the other arts. Now it is for you, in your turn, to find an answer to a question regarding temperance—since you say it is a science of self, Critias—and to tell me what excellent result it produces for us, as science of self, and what it does that is worthy of its name. Come now, tell me.

But, Socrates, he said, you are not inquiring rightly. For in its nature it is not like the other sciences, any more than any of them is like any other ; whereas you are making your inquiry as though they were alike. For tell me, he said, what result is there of the arts of reckoning and geometry, in the way that a house is of building, or a coat of

166 ἢ ἄλλα τοιαῦτα ἔργα, ἃ πολλὰ ἂν τις ἔχοι πολλῶν τεχνῶν δεῖξαι; ἔχεις οὖν μοι καὶ σὺ τούτων τοιοῦτόν τι ἔργον δεῖξαι; ἀλλ' οὐχ ἔξεις.

Καὶ ἐγὼ εἶπον ὅτι Ἀληθῆ λέγεις· ἀλλὰ τόδε σοι ἔχω δεῖξαι, τίνος ἐστὶν ἐπιστήμη ἐκάστη τούτων τῶν ἐπιστημῶν, ὃ τυγχάνει ὄν ἄλλο αὐτῆς τῆς ἐπιστήμης· οἷον ἢ λογιστικὴ ἐστὶ πού τοῦ ἀρτίου καὶ τοῦ περιττοῦ, πλήθους ὅπως ἔχει πρὸς αὐτὰ καὶ πρὸς ἄλληλα· ἢ γάρ;

Πάνυ γε, ἔφη.

Οὐκοῦν ἑτέρου ὄντος τοῦ περιττοῦ καὶ ἀρτίου αὐτῆς τῆς λογιστικῆς;

Πῶς δ' οὔ;

B Καὶ μὴν αὖ ἢ στατικὴ τοῦ βαρυτέρου καὶ κουφοτέρου σταθμοῦ ἐστὶν [στατικὴ]<sup>1</sup>. ἕτερον δέ ἐστι τὸ βαρὺ τε καὶ κουφον τῆς στατικῆς αὐτῆς. συγχωρεῖς;

Ἔγωγε.

Λέγε δή, καὶ ἢ σωφροσύνη τίνος ἐστὶν ἐπιστήμη, ὃ τυγχάνει ἕτερον ὄν αὐτῆς τῆς σωφροσύνης;

C Τοῦτό ἐστὶν ἐκεῖνο, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες· ἐπ' αὐτὸ ἦκεις ἐρευνῶν, ὅτω διαφέρει πασῶν τῶν ἐπιστημῶν ἢ σωφροσύνη· σὺ δὲ ὁμοιότητά τινα ζητεῖς αὐτῆς ταῖς ἄλλαις. τὸ δ' οὐκ ἐστὶν οὕτως, ἀλλ' αἱ μὲν ἄλλαι πᾶσαι ἄλλου εἰσὶν ἐπιστήμαι, ἑαυτῶν δ' οὔ, ἢ δὲ μόνη τῶν τε ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν ἐπιστήμη ἐστὶ καὶ αὐτὴ ἑαυτῆς. καὶ ταῦτά σε πολλοῦ δεῖ λεληθέναι, ἀλλὰ γάρ, οἶμαι, ὃ ἄρτι οὐκ ἔφησθα ποιεῖν,

<sup>1</sup> στατικὴ secl. Heindorf.

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weaving, or other products of the sort that one might point to in various arts? Well, can you, for your part, point to any such product in those two cases? You cannot.

To this I replied: What you say is true; but I can point out to you what is the peculiar subject of each of these sciences, distinct in each case from the science itself. Thus reckoning, I suppose, is concerned with the even and the odd in their numerical relations to themselves and to one another, is it not?

Certainly, he said.

And you grant that the odd and the even are different from the actual art of reckoning?

Of course.

And once more, weighing is concerned with the heavier and the lighter weight; but the heavy and the light are different from the actual art of weighing: you agree?

I do.

Then tell me, what is that of which temperance is the science, differing from temperance itself?

There you are, Socrates, he said: you push your investigation up to the real question at issue—in what temperance differs from all the other sciences—but you then proceed to seek some resemblance between it and them; whereas there is no such thing, for while all the rest of the sciences have something other than themselves as their subject, this one alone is a science of the other sciences and of its own self. And of this you are far from being unconscious, since in fact, as I believe, you are doing the very thing you denied you were doing just now: for you are attempt-

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τοῦτο ποιεῖς· ἐμὲ γὰρ ἐπιχειρεῖς ἐλέγχειν, ἕσασ περὶ οὗ ὁ λόγος ἐστίν.

Οἶον, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ποιεῖς ἡγούμενος, εἰ ὅτι μάλιστα σὲ ἐλέγχω, ἄλλου τινὸς ἔνεκα ἐλέγχειν ἢ οὐπερ  
 D ἔνεκα καὶ ἑμαυτὸν διερευνώμεν τί λέγω, φοβούμενος μή ποτε λάθω οἰόμενος μὲν τι εἰδέναι, εἰδὼς δὲ μή. καὶ νῦν δὴ οὖν ἔγωγέ φημι τοῦτο ποιεῖν, τὸν λόγον σκοπεῖν μάλιστα μὲν ἑμαυτοῦ ἔνεκα, ἴσως δὲ δὴ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιτηδείων· ἢ οὐ κοινὸν οἶει ἀγαθὸν εἶναι σχεδόν τι πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις, γίνεσθαι καταφανὲς ἕκαστον τῶν ὄντων ὅπη ἔχει;

Καὶ μάλα, ἦ δ' ὅς, ἔγωγε, ὦ Σώκρατες.

Θαρρῶν τοίνυν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ μακάριε, ἀποκρινόμενος τὸ ἐρωτώμενον ὅπη σοι φαίνεται, ἕα χαίρειν,  
 E εἴτε Κριτίας ἐστὶν εἴτε Σωκράτης ὁ ἐλεγχόμενος· ἀλλ' αὐτῷ προσέχων τὸν νοῦν τῷ λόγῳ σκόπει<sup>1</sup> ὅπη ποτὲ ἐκβήσεται ἐλεγχόμενος.

Ἄλλά, ἔφη, ποιήσω οὕτω· δοκεῖς γάρ μοι μέτρια λέγειν.

Λέγε τοίνυν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, περὶ τῆς σωφροσύνης πῶς λέγεις;

Λέγω τοίνυν, ἦ δ' ὅς, ὅτι μόνη τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν αὐτὴ τε αὐτῆς ἐστὶ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν ἐπιστήμη.

Οὐκοῦν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνης ἐπιστήμη ἂν εἴη, εἴπερ καὶ ἐπιστήμη;

Πάνυ γε, ἔφη.

167 Ὅ ἄρα σῶφρων μόνος αὐτός τε ἑαυτὸν γνώσεται

<sup>1</sup> σκόπει Heindorf: σκόπειν σκοπεῖν MSS.

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ing to refute me, without troubling to follow the subject of our discussion.

How can you think, I said, if my main effort is to refute you, that I do it with any other motive than that which would impel me to investigate the meaning of my own words—from a fear of carelessly supposing, at any moment, that I knew something while I knew it not? And so it is now: that is what I am doing, I tell you. I am examining the argument mainly for my own sake, but also, perhaps, for that of my other intimates. Or do you not think it is for the common good, almost, of all men, that the truth about everything there is should be discovered?

Yes indeed, he replied, I do, Socrates.

Then take heart, I said, my admirable friend, and answer the question put to you as you deem the case to be, without caring a jot whether it is Critias or Socrates who is being refuted: give the argument itself your attention, and observe what will become of it under the test of refutation.

Well, he said, I will do so; for I think there is a good deal in what you say.

Then tell me, I said, what you mean in regard to temperance.

Why, I mean, he said, that it alone of all the sciences is the science both of itself and of the other sciences.

So then, I said, it will be the science of the lack of science also, besides being the science of science?<sup>1</sup>

Certainly, he replied.

Then only the temperate person will know himself,

<sup>1</sup> Science or exact knowledge must be able to measure not only the field of knowledge, but also that of its negation, ignorance.

καὶ οἶός τε ἔσται ἐξετάσαι τί τε τυγχάνει εἰδῶς  
καὶ τί μῆ, καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους ὡσαύτως δυνατὸς ἔσται  
ἐπισκοπεῖν, τί τις οἶδε καὶ οἶεται, εἶπερ οἶδε, καὶ  
τί αὐ<sup>1</sup> οἶεται μὲν εἰδέναί, οἶδε δ' οὐ, τῶν δὲ ἄλλων  
οὐδεῖς· καὶ ἔστι δὴ τοῦτο τὸ σωφροεῖν τε καὶ  
σωφροσύνη καὶ τὸ ἑαυτὸν αὐτὸν γιννώσκειν, τὸ  
εἰδέναί ἅ τε οἶδε καὶ ἅ μὴ οἶδεν. ἄρα ταῦτά ἐστιν  
ἅ λέγεις;

Ἔγωγ', ἔφη.

Πάλιν τοίνυν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, τὸ τρίτον τῷ σωτηῆρι,  
B ὡσπερ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐπισκεψώμεθα, πρῶτον μὲν εἰ  
δυνατὸν ἐστι τοῦτο εἶναι ἢ οὐ, τὸ ἅ οἶδε καὶ ἅ μὴ  
οἶδεν εἰδέναί ὅτι οἶδε καὶ ὅτι οὐκ οἶδεν· ἔπειτα εἰ  
ὅτι μάλιστα δυνατὸν, τίς ἂν εἴη ἡμῖν ὠφελία  
εἰδόσιν αὐτό.

Ἄλλὰ χρή, ἔφη, σκοπεῖν.

Ἴθι δὴ, ἔφη ἐγώ, ὦ Κριτία, σκέψαι, ἐάν τι περὶ  
αὐτῶν εὐπορώτερος φανῆς ἐμοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν γὰρ  
ἀπορῶ· ἢ δὲ ἀπορῶ, φράσω σοι;

Πάνυ γ', ἔφη.

Ἄλλο τι οὖν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, πάντα ταῦτ' ἂν εἴη, εἰ  
ἔστιν ὅπερ σὺ νῦν δὴ ἔλεγες, μία τις ἐπιστήμη, ἢ  
C οὐκ ἄλλου τινός ἐστιν ἢ ἑαυτῆς τε καὶ τῶν ἄλλων  
ἐπιστημῶν ἐπιστήμη, καὶ δὴ καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνης  
ἢ αὐτῆ αὐτῆ;

Πάνυ γε.

Ἴδὲ δὴ ὡς ἀτοπον ἐπιχειροῦμεν, ὦ ἐταῖρε, λέγειν·  
ἐν ἄλλοις γάρ που τὸ αὐτὸ τοῦτο ἐὰν σκοπῆς, δόξει  
σοι, ὡς ἐγῶμαι, ἀδύνατον εἶναι.

<sup>1</sup> αὐ Bekker: αὐτὸς MSS.

<sup>1</sup> It was the custom at banquets to dedicate a third and



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and be able to discern what he really knows and does not know, and have the power of judging what other people likewise know and think they know, in cases where they do know, and again, what they think they know, without knowing it ; everyone else will be unable. And so this is being temperate, or temperance, and knowing oneself—that one should know what one knows and what one does not know. Is that what you mean ?

It is, he replied.

Once more then, I said, as our third offering to the Saviour,<sup>1</sup> let us consider afresh, in the first place, whether such a thing as this is possible or not—to know that one knows, and does not know, what one knows and what one does not know ; and secondly, if this is perfectly possible, what benefit we get by knowing it.

We must indeed consider, he said.

Come then, I said, Critias, consider if you can show yourself any more resourceful than I am ; for I am at a loss. Shall I explain to you in what way ?

By all means, he replied.

Well, I said, what all this comes to, if your last statement was correct, is merely that there is one science which is precisely a science of itself and of the other sciences, and moreover is a science of the lack of science at the same time.

Certainly.

Then mark what a strange statement it is that we are attempting to make, my friend : for if you will consider it as applied to other cases, you will surely see—so I believe—its impossibility.

final wine-offering or toast to Zeus the Saviour. Cf. Pindar, *Isthm.* v. *init.*

Πῶς δὴ καὶ ποῦ;

Ἐν τοῖσδε. ἐννόει γὰρ εἴ σοι δοκεῖ ὄψις τις εἶναι, ἢ ὦν μὲν αἱ ἄλλαι ὄψεις εἰσὶν, οὐκ ἔστι τούτων ὄψις, ἑαυτῆς δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ὄψεων ὄψις ἐστί,  
 D καὶ μὴ ὄψεων ὡσαύτως, καὶ χρῶμα μὲν ὄρα οὐδὲν ὄψις οὔσα, αὐτὴν δὲ καὶ τὰς ἄλλας ὄψεις· δοκεῖ τίς σοι εἶναι τοιαύτη;

Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔμοιγε.

Τί δὲ ἀκοήν, ἢ φωνῆς μὲν οὐδεμιᾶς ἀκούει, αὐτῆς δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἀκοῶν ἀκούει καὶ τῶν μὴ ἀκοῶν;

Οὐδὲ τοῦτο.

Συλλήβδην δὴ σκόπει περὶ πασῶν τῶν αἰσθήσεων, εἴ τίς σοι δοκεῖ εἶναι αἰσθήσεων μὲν αἴσθησις καὶ ἑαυτῆς, ὦν δὲ δὴ αἱ ἄλλαι αἰσθήσεις αἰσθάνονται, μηδενὸς αἰσθανομένη;

Οὐκ ἔμοιγε.

E Ἄλλ' ἐπιθυμία δοκεῖ τίς σοι εἶναι, ἣτις ἡδονῆς μὲν οὐδεμιᾶς ἐστὶν ἐπιθυμία, αὐτῆς δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιθυμιῶν;

Οὐ δῆτα.

Οὐδὲ μὴν βούλησις, ὡς ἐγῶμαι, ἢ ἀγαθὸν μὲν οὐδὲν βούλεται, αὐτὴν δὲ καὶ τὰς ἄλλας βουλήσεις βούλεται.

Οὐ γὰρ οὖν.

Ἐρωτα δὲ φαίης ἂν τινα εἶναι τοιοῦτον, ὃς τυγχάνει ὦν ἔρως καλοῦ μὲν οὐδενός, αὐτοῦ δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐρώτων;

Οὐκ, ἔφη, ἔγωγε.

Φόβον δὲ ἤδη τινὰ κατανενόηκας, ὃς ἑαυτὸν μὲν  
 168 καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους φόβους φοβεῖται, τῶν δεινῶν δ' οὐδὲ ἐν φοβεῖται;

## CHARMIDES

How so ? In what cases ?

In the following : ask yourself if you think there is a sort of vision which is not the vision of things that we see in the ordinary way, but a vision of itself and of the other sorts of vision, and of the lack of vision likewise ; which, while being vision, sees no colour, but only itself and the other sorts of vision. Do you think there is any such ?

Upon my word, I do not.

And what do you say to a sort of hearing which hears not a single sound, but hears itself and the other sorts of hearing and lack of hearing ?

I reject that also.

Then take all the senses together as a whole, and consider if you think there is any sense of the senses and of itself, but insensible of any of the things of which the other senses are sensible.

I do not.

Now, do you think there is any desire which is the desire, not of any pleasure, but of itself and of the other desires ?

No, indeed.

Nor, again, is there a wish, I imagine, that wishes no good, but wishes itself and the other wishes.

Quite so ; there is not.

And would you say there is any love of such a sort that it is actually a love of no beauty, but of itself and of the other loves ?

Not I, he replied.

And have you ever observed any fear which fears itself and the other fears, but has no fear of a single dreadful thing ?

Οὐ κατανεόηκα, ἔφη.

Δόξαν δὲ δοξῶν δόξαν καὶ αὐτῆς, ὧν δὲ αἱ ἄλλαι  
δοξάζουσι μηδὲν δοξάζουσιν;

Οὐδαμῶς.

Ἄλλ' ἐπιστήμην, ὡς ἔοικε, φαμέν τινα εἶναι  
τοιαύτην, ἣτις μαθήματος μὲν οὐδενός ἐστιν  
ἐπιστήμη, αὐτῆς δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν  
ἐπιστήμη;

Φαμέν γάρ.

Οὐκοῦν ἄτοπον, εἰ ἄρα καὶ ἔστι; μηδὲν γάρ πω  
δυσχυριζώμεθα ὡς οὐκ ἔστιν, ἀλλ' εἰ ἔστιν ἔτι  
σκοπῶμεν:

B Ὅρθῶς λέγεις.

Φέρε δὴ· ἔστι μὲν αὕτη ἡ ἐπιστήμη τινὸς ἐπι-  
στήμη, καὶ ἔχει τινὰ τοιαύτην δύναμιν ὥστε τινὸς  
εἶναι· ἦ γάρ;

Πάνυ γε.

Καὶ γὰρ τὸ μείζον φαμεν τοιαύτην τινὰ ἔχειν  
δύναμιν, ὥστε τινὸς εἶναι μείζον;

Ἔχει γάρ.

Οὐκοῦν ἐλάττωνός τινος, εἴπερ ἔσται μείζον.

Ἀνάγκη.

Εἰ οὖν τι εὐροίμεν μείζον, ὃ τῶν μὲν μειζόνων  
ἐστὶ μείζον καὶ ἑαυτοῦ, ὧν δὲ τὰλλα μείζω ἐστὶ  
C μηδενὸς μείζον, πάντως ἄν που ἐκεῖνό γ' αὐτῶ  
ὑπάρχοι, εἴπερ ἑαυτοῦ μείζον εἴη, καὶ ἔλαττον  
ἑαυτοῦ εἶναι· ἦ οὐ;

Πολλὴ ἀνάγκη, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες.

Οὐκοῦν καὶ εἴ τι διπλάσιόν ἐστι τῶν τε ἄλλων

<sup>1</sup> At this point Socrates adduces the relation of greater to smaller (τινὸς εἶναι μείζον) to suggest a difficulty in conceiving a science to be a science of itself: in so doing he draws a

## CHARMIDES

No, I have not, he replied.

Or an opinion which is an opinion of opinions and of itself, but without any opinion such as the other opinions have ?

By no means.

But it is apparently a science of this kind that we are assuming—one that is a science of no branch of study, but a science of itself and of the other sciences.

So we are.

And it is a strange thing, if it really exists ? For we should not affirm as yet that it does not exist, but should still consider whether it does exist.

You are right.

Well now, this science is a science of something, that is, it has a certain faculty whereby it can be a science of something, has it not ?

Certainly.

For, you know, we say the greater has a certain faculty whereby it can be greater than something ?<sup>1</sup>

Quite so.

That is, than something smaller, if it is to be greater.

Necessarily.

So if we could find a greater which is greater than other greater things, and than itself, but not greater than the things beside which the others are greater, I take it there can be no doubt that it would be in the situation of being, if greater than itself, at the same time smaller than itself, would it not ?

Most inevitably, Socrates, he said.

Or again, if there is a double of other doubles and

false analogy between two quite different uses of the genitive in Greek, represented in English by the comparative "than" and the objective "of."

## PLATO

διπλασίων καὶ ἑαυτοῦ, ἡμίσεος δὴπου ὄντος ἑαυτοῦ  
τε καὶ τῶν ἄλλων διπλάσιον ἂν εἶη· οὐ γὰρ ἐστί  
που ἄλλου διπλάσιον ἢ ἡμίσεος.

Ἄλθῃ.

Πλέον δὲ αὐτοῦ ὄν οὐ καὶ ἔλαττον ἔσται, καὶ  
βαρύτερον ὄν κουφότερον, καὶ πρεσβύτερον ὄν  
D νεώτερον, καὶ τᾶλλα πάντα ὡσαύτως, ὅ τί περ ἂν  
τὴν ἑαυτοῦ δύναμιν πρὸς ἑαυτὸ ἔχη, οὐ καὶ ἐκείνην  
ἔξει τὴν οὐσίαν, πρὸς ἣν ἡ δύναμις αὐτοῦ ἦν;  
λέγω δὲ τὸ τοιόνδε· οἶον ἡ ἀκοή, φαμέν, οὐκ ἄλλου  
τινὸς ἦν ἀκοή ἢ φωνῆς· ἡ γάρ;

Ναί.

Οὐκοῦν εἶπερ αὐτὴ αὐτῆς ἀκούσεται, φωνὴν  
ἐχούσης ἑαυτῆς ἀκούσεται· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ἄλλως  
ἀκούσειεν.

Πολλὴ ἀνάγκη.

Καὶ ἡ ὄψις γέ που, ὦ ἄριστε, εἶπερ ὄψεται αὐτὴ  
ἑαυτήν, χρῶμά τι αὐτὴν ἀνάγκη ἔχειν· ἄχρων γὰρ  
E ὄψις οὐδὲν [ἂν]<sup>1</sup> μὴ ποτε ἴδῃ.

Οὐ γὰρ οὖν.

Ἵρας οὖν, ὦ Κριτία, ὅτι ὅσα διεληλύθαμεν, τὰ  
μὲν αὐτῶν ἀδύνατα παντάπασι φαίνεται ἡμῖν, τὰ  
δ' ἀπιστεῖται σφόδρα μὴ ποτ' ἂν τὴν ἑαυτῶν  
δύναμιν πρὸς ἑαυτὰ σχεῖν; μεγέθη μὲν γὰρ καὶ  
πλήθη καὶ τὰ τοιαῦτα παντάπασιν ἀδύνατον· ἢ  
οὐχί;

Πάνυ γε.

Ἄκοῦ δ' αὖ καὶ ὄψις καὶ ἔτι γε κίνησις αὐτὴ  
ἑαυτήν κινεῖν, καὶ θερμότης καίειν, καὶ πάντα αὖ  
169 τὰ τοιαῦτα τοῖς μὲν ἀπιστίαν <ἂν><sup>2</sup> παράσχοι,  
ἴσως δέ τισιν οὐ. μεγάλου δὴ τινος, ὦ φίλε,

<sup>1</sup> ἂν secl. Stallbaum.

<sup>2</sup> ἂν add. Heindorf.

## CHARMIDES

of itself, both it and the others must of course be halves, if it is to be their double ; for, you know, a double cannot be “ of ” anything else than its half.

True.

And what is more than itself will also be less, and the heavier will be lighter, and the older younger, and so on with everything else : whatever has its own faculty applied to itself will have also the natural quality to which its faculty was applicable, will it not ? For instance, hearing is, as we say, just a hearing of sound, is it not ?

Yes.

So if it is to hear itself, it will hear a sound of its own ; for it would not hear otherwise.

Most inevitably.

And sight, I suppose, my excellent friend, if it is to see itself, must needs have a colour ; for sight can never see what is colourless.

No more it can.

Then do you perceive, Critias, in the various cases we have propounded, how some of them strike us as absolutely impossible, while others raise serious doubts as to the faculty of the thing being ever applicable to itself ? For with magnitudes, numbers, and the like it is absolutely impossible, is it not ?

Certainly.

But again, with hearing and sight, or in the further cases of motion moving itself and heat burning itself, and all other actions of the sort, the fact must appear incredible to some, but perhaps not to others. So what we want, my friend, is some great man who

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ἀνδρὸς δεῖ, ὅστις τοῦτο κατὰ πάντων ἱκανῶς  
 διαιρήσεται, πότερον οὐδὲν τῶν ὄντων τὴν αὐτοῦ  
 δύναμιν αὐτὸ πρὸς ἑαυτὸ πέφυκεν ἔχειν [πλήν  
 ἐπιστήμης],<sup>1</sup> ἀλλὰ πρὸς ἄλλο, ἢ τὰ μὲν, τὰ δ' οὐ·  
 καὶ εἰ ἔστιν αὖ ἄτινα αὐτὰ πρὸς ἑαυτὰ ἔχει, ἄρ' ἐν  
 τούτοις ἐστὶν ἐπιστήμη, ἣν δὴ ἡμεῖς σωφροσύνην  
 φαμέν εἶναι. ἐγὼ μὲν οὐ πιστεύω ἑμαυτῷ ἱκανὸς  
 εἶναι ταῦτα διελέσθαι· διὸ καὶ οὐτ' εἰ δυνατόν ἐστι  
 B τοῦτο γενέσθαι, ἐπιστήμης ἐπιστήμην εἶναι, ἔχω  
 δισχυρίσασθαι, οὐτ' εἰ ὅτι μάλιστα ἔστι, σωφρο-  
 σύνην ἀποδέχομαι αὐτὸ εἶναι, πρὶν ἂν ἐπισκέψωμαι,  
 εἴτε τι ἂν ἡμᾶς ὠφελοῖ τοιοῦτον ὄν, εἴτε μή. τὴν  
 γὰρ οὖν δὴ σωφροσύνην ὠφέλιμόν τι καὶ ἀγαθὸν  
 μαντεύομαι εἶναι· σὺ οὖν, ὦ παῖ Καλλαίσχρου—  
 τίθεσαι γὰρ σωφροσύνην τοῦτ' εἶναι, ἐπιστήμην  
 ἐπιστήμης καὶ δὴ καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνης—πρῶτον  
 μὲν τοῦτο ἔνδειξαι, ὅτι δυνατόν [ἀποδείξαι σε]<sup>2</sup> ὁ  
 νῦν δὴ ἔλεγον, ἔπειτα πρὸς τῷ δυνατῷ ὅτι καὶ  
 C ὠφέλιμον· καμὲ τάχ' ἂν ἀποπληρώσῃς, ὡς ὀρθῶς  
 λέγεις περὶ σωφροσύνης, ὃ ἔστιν.

Καὶ ὁ Κριτίας ἀκούσας ταῦτα καὶ ἰδὼν με  
 ἀποροῦντα, ὥσπερ οἱ τοὺς χασμωμένους καταντι-  
 κρὸν ὀρῶντες ταῦτόν τοῦτο συμπάσχουσι, κακείνος  
 ἔδοξέ μοι ὑπ' ἐμοῦ ἀποροῦντος ἀναγκασθῆναι καὶ  
 αὐτὸς ἀλῶναι ὑπὸ ἀπορίας. ἄτε οὖν εὐδοκιμῶν  
 ἐκάστοτε, ἠσχύνετο τοὺς παρόντας, καὶ οὔτε  
 συγχωρησαί μοι ἤθελεν ἀδύνατος εἶναι διελέσθαι  
 D ἃ προὔκαλούμην αὐτόν, ἔλεγέ τε οὐδὲν σαφές,  
 ἐπικαλύπτων τὴν ἀπορίαν. καγὰρ ἡμῖν ἵνα ὁ λόγος  
 προῖοι, εἶπον· Ἄλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ, ὦ Κριτία, νῦν μὲν

<sup>1</sup> πλὴν ἐπιστήμης secl. Schleiermacher.

<sup>2</sup> ἀποδείξαι σε secl. Heindorf.



## CHARMIDES

will determine to our satisfaction in every respect whether there is nothing in nature so constituted as to have its own faculty applicable to itself, and not only some other object, or whether there are some such, and others not such; and whether, again, if there are things that have such relation to themselves, they include a science which we assert to be temperance. For my part, I distrust my own competence to determine these questions, and hence I am neither able to affirm whether it is possible that there should be a science of science, nor willing, let it be ever so true, to acknowledge this to be temperance until I have made out whether such a thing as this would benefit us or not. For, you see, I have a presentiment that temperance is something beneficial and good; and you, therefore, son of Callaeschrus—since you lay it down that temperance is this very science of science, and moreover of the lack of science—shall first indicate the possibility, as I put it just now, and then the benefit added to the possibility, of such a thing; and perhaps you will then satisfy me that your definition of temperance is correct.

Now when Critias heard this and saw me in a difficulty, he seemed to me—just as the sight of someone yawning opposite causes people to be affected in the same way—to be compelled by the sense of my difficulty to be caught in a difficulty himself. And so, since he usually contrived to distinguish himself, he was too ashamed to bring himself to admit to me before the company that he was unable to determine the questions with which I challenged him, and he made a very indistinct reply in order to conceal his difficulty. Then I, to forward the discussion, remarked: Well, if you prefer, Critias, let

τοῦτο συγχωρήσωμεν, δυνατόν εἶναι γενέσθαι ἐπιστήμην ἐπιστήμης· αὐθις δὲ ἐπισκεψόμεθα εἴτε οὕτως ἔχει εἴτε μή. ἴθι δὴ οὖν, εἰ ὅτι μάλιστα δυνατόν τοῦτο, τί μᾶλλον οἶόν τέ ἐστίν εἰδέναί ᾧ τέ τις οἶδε καὶ ᾧ μή; τοῦτο γὰρ δήπου ἔφαμεν εἶναι τὸ γιννώσκειν αὐτὸν καὶ σωφρονεῖν· ἦ γάρ;

Ε Πάνυ γε, ἦ δ' ὅς, καὶ συμβαίνει γέ που, ὦ Σώκρατες. εἰ γὰρ τις ἔχει ἐπιστήμην ἢ αὐτὴ αὐτὴν γιννώσκει, τοιοῦτος ἂν αὐτὸς εἴη οἶόνπερ ἐστίν ὃ ἔχει. ὥσπερ ὅταν τάχος τις ἔχῃ, ταχύς, καὶ ὅταν κάλλος, καλός, καὶ ὅταν γνῶσιν, γιννώσκων· ὅταν δὲ δὴ γνῶσιν αὐτὴν αὐτῆς τις ἔχῃ, γιννώσκων που αὐτὸς ἑαυτὸν τότε ἔσται.

Οὐ τοῦτο, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἀμφισβητῶ, ὡς οὐχ ὅταν τὸ αὐτὸ γιννώσκόν τις ἔχῃ, αὐτὸς αὐτὸν γνῶσεται, ἀλλ' ἔχοντι τοῦτο τίς ἀνάγκη εἰδέναί ᾧ τε οἶδε καὶ ᾧ μή οἶδεν;

170 Ὅτι, ὦ Σώκρατες, ταῦτόν ἐστι τοῦτο ἐκείνω.

Ἴσως, ἔφην, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ κινδυνεύω ἀεὶ ὁμοίος εἶναι· οὐ γὰρ αὐτὸ μανθάνω ὡς ἐστὶ τὸ αὐτὸ ᾧ οἶδεν εἰδέναί καὶ ᾧ τις μή οἶδεν εἰδέναί.

Πῶς λέγεις, ἔφη;

᾿Ωδε, ἦν δ' ἐγώ. ἐπιστήμη που ἐπιστήμης οὐσα ἄρα πλείον τι οἶα τ' ἐστὶν διαιρεῖν, ἢ ὅτι τούτων τότε μὲν ἐπιστήμη, τὸ δ' οὐκ ἐπιστήμη;

Οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τοσοῦτον.

Β Ταῦτόν οὖν ἐστὶν ἐπιστήμη τε καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνη ὑγιεινοῦ, καὶ ἐπιστήμη τε καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνη δικαίου;

Οὐδαμῶς.

Ἄλλὰ τὸ μὲν, οἶμαι, ἰατρική, τὸ δὲ πολιτική, τὸ δὲ οὐδὲν ἄλλο ἢ ἐπιστήμη.

## CHARMIDES

us concede for the moment that there may possibly be a science of science : some other time we shall consider whether such is the fact or not. Come then ; suppose it is perfectly possible : how is one helped thereby to know what one knows and does not know ? For this, you are aware, we said <sup>1</sup> was the meaning of self-knowledge and temperance, did we not ?

Certainly, he said ; and it must surely follow, Socrates ; for if a man has a science which knows itself, he will be similar himself to that which he has. For instance, he who has swiftness will be swift, he who has beauty will be beautiful, and he who has knowledge will know ; and when he has knowledge that is of itself, he will then, surely, be in the position of knowing himself.

I do not dispute, I said, that when a man has that which knows itself he will know himself ; but having that, how is he bound to know what he knows and what he does not know ?

Because, Socrates, the two things are the same.

I daresay, I said ; but I am afraid I am still my old self : I still do not see how knowing what one knows and does not know is the same as the other.

How do you mean ? he asked.

In this way, I replied : will a science of science, if such exists, be able to do more than determine that one of two things is science, and the other is not science ?

No, only that.

Now, is science or lack of science of health the same as science or lack of science of justice ?

By no means.

For the one, I suppose, is medicine, and the other politics, while the thing in question is merely science.

<sup>1</sup> 167 A.

Πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

Οὐκοῦν ἐὰν μὴ προσεπίσθηταί τις τὸ ὑγιεινὸν καὶ τὸ δίκαιον, ἀλλ' ἐπιστήμην μόνον γινώσκη ἅτε τούτου μόνον ἔχων ἐπιστήμην, ὅτι μὲν τι ἐπίσταται καὶ ὅτι ἐπιστήμην τινὰ ἔχει, εἰκότως ἂν γινώσκοι καὶ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ περὶ τῶν ἄλλων· ἢ γάρ;

Ναί.

C Ὁ τι δὲ γινώσκει, ταύτη τῇ ἐπιστήμῃ πῶς εἴσεται; γινώσκει γὰρ δὴ τὸ μὲν ὑγιεινὸν τῇ ἰατρικῇ ἀλλ' οὐ σωφροσύνη, τὸ δ' ἁρμονικὸν μουσικῇ ἀλλ' οὐ σωφροσύνη, τὸ δ' οἰκοδομικὸν οἰκοδομικῇ ἀλλ' οὐ σωφροσύνη, καὶ οὕτω πάντα· ἢ οὐ;

Φαίνεται.

Σωφροσύνη δέ, εἴπερ μόνον ἐστὶν ἐπιστημῶν ἐπιστήμη, πῶς εἴσεται ὅτι τὸ ὑγιεινὸν γινώσκει ἢ ὅτι τὸ οἰκοδομικόν;

Οὐδαμῶς.

Οὐκ ἄρα εἴσεται ὃ οἶδεν ὃ τοῦτο ἀγνοῶν, ἀλλ' ὅτι οἶδε μόνον.

Ἐοικεν.

D Οὐκ ἄρα σωφρονεῖν τοῦτ' ἂν εἴη οὐδὲ σωφροσύνη, εἰδέναί ἅ τε οἶδε καὶ ἅ μὴ οἶδεν, ἀλλ', ὡς ἔοικεν, ὅτι οἶδε καὶ ὅτι οὐκ οἶδε μόνον.

Κινδυνεύει.

Οὐδὲ ἄλλον ἄρα οἴος τε ἐσται οὗτος ἐξετάσαι φάσκοντά τι ἐπίστασθαι, πότερον ἐπίσταται ὃ φησιν ἐπίστασθαι ἢ οὐκ ἐπίσταται· ἀλλὰ τοσοῦτον μόνον, ὡς ἔοικε, γνώσεται, ὅτι ἔχει τινὰ ἐπιστήμην, ὅτου δέ γε, ἢ σωφροσύνη οὐ ποιήσει αὐτὸν γινώσκειν.

## CHARMIDES

Yes, to be sure.

And if a man has no added knowledge of health and justice, but knows only science, as having science of that alone, he will probably know that he has a certain piece of scientific knowledge about himself and about other people, will he not ?

Yes.

But how will this science help him to know what he knows ? For of course he knows health by means of medicine, not temperance, and harmony by means of music, not temperance, and building by means of the builder's art, not temperance ; and so it will be in every case, will it not ?

Apparently.

And how will temperance, supposing it is only a science of sciences, help him to know that he knows health, or that he knows building ?

By no means.

Then he who is ignorant of all this will not know what he knows, but only that he knows.

So it seems.

Then being temperate, or temperance, will not be this knowledge of what one knows or does not know, but, it would seem, merely knowing that one knows or does not know.

It looks like it.

Then such a person will also be unable to examine another man's claim to some knowledge, and make out whether he knows or does not know what he says he knows : he will merely know, it would seem, that he has a certain knowledge ; but of what it is, temperance will not cause him to know.

Οὐ φαίνεται.

Ε Οὔτε ἄρα τὸν προσποιούμενον ἰατρὸν εἶναι, ὄντα δὲ μή, καὶ τὸν ὡς ἀληθῶς ὄντα οἶός τε ἔσται διακρίνειν, οὔτε ἄλλον οὐδένα τῶν ἐπιστημόνων καὶ μή. σκεψώμεθα δὲ ἐκ τῶνδε· εἰ μέλλει ὁ σώφρων ἢ ὀσισοῦν ἄλλος τὸν ὡς ἀληθῶς ἰατρὸν διαγνώσεσθαι καὶ τὸν μή, ἅρ' οὐχ ὧδε ποιήσει· περὶ μὲν ἰατρικῆς δήπου αὐτῷ οὐ διαλέξεται· οὐδὲν γὰρ ἐπαίει, ὡς ἔφαμεν, ὁ ἰατρὸς ἀλλ' ἢ τὸ ὑγιεινὸν καὶ τὸ νοσῶδες· ἢ οὔ;

Ναί, οὕτως.

Περὶ δέ γε ἐπιστήμης οὐδὲν οἶδεν, ἀλλὰ τοῦτο δὴ τῇ σωφροσύνῃ μόνῃ ἀπέδομεν.

Ναί.

Οὐδὲ περὶ ἰατρικῆς ἄρα οἶδεν ὁ ἰατρικός, ἐπει-  
171 δὴπερ ἡ ἰατρικὴ ἐπιστήμη οὔσα τυγχάνει.

Ἄληθῆ.

Ὅτι μὲν δὴ ἐπιστήμην τινὰ ἔχει, γνώσεται ὁ σώφρων τὸν ἰατρὸν· δέον δὲ<sup>1</sup> πείραν λαβεῖν ἥτις ἐστίν, ἄλλο τι σκέψεται ὠντινων; ἢ οὐ τούτῳ ὠρισταί ἐκάστη ἐπιστήμη μὴ μόνον ἐπιστήμη εἶναι ἀλλὰ καὶ τίς, τῷ τινῶν εἶναι;

Τούτῳ μὲν οὖν.

Καὶ ἡ ἰατρικὴ δὴ ἑτέρα εἶναι τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν ὠρίσθη τῷ τοῦ ὑγιεινοῦ εἶναι καὶ νοσῶδους ἐπιστήμη.

Ναί.

Οὐκοῦν ἐν τούτοις ἀναγκαῖον σκοπεῖν τὸν βου-  
B λόμενον ἰατρικὴν σκοπεῖν, ἐν οἷς ποτ' ἔστιν· οὐ γὰρ δήπου ἐν γε τοῖς ἔξω, ἐν οἷς οὐκ ἔστιν;

Οὐ δῆτα.

<sup>1</sup> δέον δὲ Goldbacher: δεῖ δὴ, δὲ δὴ mss.

## CHARMIDES

Apparently not.

So he will be able to distinguish neither the man who pretends to be a doctor, but is none, from the man who really is one, nor any other man who has knowledge from him who has none. But let us consider it another way : if the temperate man or anybody else would discriminate between the true doctor and the false, he will go to work thus, will he not ? He will surely not talk to him about medicine ; for, as we were saying, the doctor understands nothing else but health and disease. Is not that so ?

Yes, it is.

But about science he knows nothing, for that, you know, we assigned to temperance alone.

Yes.

So the medical man knows nothing about medicine either, since medicine is, of course, a science.

True.

Then the temperate man will know, indeed, that the doctor has a certain science ; but when he has to put its nature to the proof, must he not consider what its subjects are ? Is not each science marked out, not merely as a science, but as a particular one, by the particular subjects it has ?

It is, to be sure

And medicine is marked out as different from the other sciences by being a science of health and disease.

Yes.

And so anyone who wishes to inquire into medicine must make those things, whatever they may be, with which it is concerned, the matter of his inquiry ; not those foreign things, I presume, with which it is not ?

No, indeed.

Ἐν τοῖς ὑγιεινοῖς ἄρα καὶ νοσώδεσιν ἐπισκέψεται τὸν ἰατρὸν, ἧ ἰατρικὸς ἐστίν, ὁ ὀρθῶς σκοπούμενος.

Ἔοικεν.

Οὐκοῦν ἐν τοῖς οὕτως ἢ λεγομένοις ἢ πραττομένοις τὰ μὲν λεγόμενα, εἰ ἀληθῆ λέγεται, σκοπούμενος, τὰ δὲ πραττόμενα, εἰ ὀρθῶς πράττεται;

Ἀνάγκη.

Ἡ οὖν ἄνευ ἰατρικῆς δύναιτ' ἄν τις τούτων ποτέροις ἐπακολουθῆσαι;

Οὐ δῆτα.

C Οὐδέ γε ἄλλος οὐδεὶς, ὡς ἔοικε, πλὴν ἰατρός, οὔτε δὴ ὁ σώφρων· ἰατρὸς γὰρ ἂν εἴη πρὸς τῇ σωφροσύνῃ.

Ἔστι ταῦτα.

Παντὸς ἄρα μᾶλλον, εἰ ἢ σωφροσύνη ἐπιστήμης ἐπιστήμη μόνον ἐστὶ καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνης, οὔτε ἰατρὸν διακρίναι οἷα τε ἔσται ἐπιστάμενον τὰ τῆς τέχνης ἢ μὴ ἐπιστάμενον, προσποιούμενον δὲ ἢ οἰόμενον, οὔτε ἄλλον οὐδένα τῶν ἐπισταμένων καὶ ὀτιοῦν, πλὴν γε τὸν αὐτοῦ ὁμότεχνον, ὥσπερ οἱ ἄλλοι δημιουργοί.

Φαίνεται, ἔφη.

D Τίς οὖν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ Κριτία, ὠφελία ἡμῖν ἔτι ἂν εἴη ἀπὸ τῆς σωφροσύνης τοιαύτης οὔσης; εἰ μὲν γάρ, ὃ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ὑπετιθέμεθα, ἦδει ὁ σώφρων ἅ τε ἦδει καὶ ἅ μὴ ἦδει, τὰ μὲν ὅτι οἶδε, τὰ δ' ὅτι οὐκ οἶδε, καὶ ἄλλον ταῦτόν τοῦτο πεπονθότα ἐπισκέψασθαι οἷός τε ἦν, μεγαλωστί ἂν ἡμῖν, φαμέν, ὠφέλιμον ἦν σώφροσιν εἶναι· ἀναμάρτητοι γὰρ ἂν τὸν βίον διεζῶμεν αὐτοί τε [καὶ]<sup>1</sup> οἱ τὴν σωφροσύνην ἔχοντες καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι πάντες ὅσοι ὑφ'

<sup>1</sup> καὶ del. Heindorf.



## CHARMIDES

Then he who conducts his inquiry aright will consider the doctor, as a medical man, in connexion with cases of health and disease.

So it seems.

And will inquire whether, in what is said or done in such cases, his words are truly spoken, and his acts rightly done ?

He must.

Well now, could anyone follow up either of these points without the medical art ?

No, indeed.

Nobody at all, it would seem, but a doctor ; and so not the temperate man either : for he would have to be a doctor, in addition to his temperance.

That is so.

Then inevitably, if temperance is only a science of science and of lack of science, it will be equally unable to distinguish a doctor who knows the business of his art from one who does not know but pretends or thinks he does, and any other person who has knowledge of anything at all : one will only distinguish one's fellow-artist, as craftsmen usually can.

Apparently, he said.

Then what benefit, I asked, Critias, can we still look for from temperance, if it is like that ? For if, as we began by assuming, the temperate man knew what he knew and what he did not know, and that he knows the one and does not know the other, and if he were able to observe this same condition in another man, it would be vastly to our benefit, we agree, to be temperate ; since we should pass all our lives, both we who had temperance and all the rest

## PLATO

Ε ἡμῶν ἤρχοντο. οὔτε γὰρ ἂν αὐτοὶ ἐπεχειροῦμεν πράττειν ἅ μὴ ἠπιστάμεθα, ἀλλ' ἐξευρίσκοντες τοὺς ἐπισταμένους ἐκείνοις ἂν παρεδίδομεν, οὔτε τοῖς ἄλλοις ἐπετρέπομεν, ὧν ἤρχομεν, ἄλλο τι πράττειν ἢ ὅ τι πράττοντες ὀρθῶς ἔμελλον πράξειν· τοῦτο δ' ἦν ἂν, οὐ ἐπιστήμην εἶχον· καὶ οὕτω δὴ ὑπὸ σωφροσύνης οἰκία τε οἰκουμένη ἔμελλε καλῶς οἰκεῖσθαι, πόλις τε πολιτευομένη, καὶ ἄλλο πᾶν οὐ  
 172 σωφροσύνη ἄρχοι· ἀμαρτίας γὰρ ἐξηρημένης, ὀρθότητος δὲ ἠγουμένης, ἐν πάσῃ πράξει ἀναγκαῖον καλῶς καὶ εὖ πράττειν τοὺς οὕτω διακειμένους, τοὺς δὲ εὖ πράττοντας εὐδαίμονας εἶναι. ἄρ' οὐχ οὕτως, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ Κριτία, ἐλέγομεν περὶ σωφροσύνης, λέγοντες ὅσον ἀγαθὸν εἶη τὸ εἰδέναι ἅ τε οἰδέ τις καὶ ἅ μὴ οἶδεν;

Πάνυ μὲν οὖν, ἔφη, οὕτως.

Νῦν δέ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὄρας ὅτι οὐδαμοῦ ἐπιστήμη οὐδεμία τοιαύτη οὔσα πέφανται.

Ὅρω, ἔφη.

Β Ἄρ' οὖν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, τοῦτ' ἔχει τὸ ἀγαθὸν ἦν νῦν εὐρίσκομεν σωφροσύνην οὔσαν, τὸ ἐπιστήμην ἐπιστασθαι καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνην, ὅτι ὁ ταύτην ἔχων, ὅ τι ἂν ἄλλο μαθάνῃ, ῥᾶόν τε μαθήσεται καὶ ἐναργέστερα πάντα αὐτῷ φανεῖται, ἅτε πρὸς ἐκάστῳ ὧ ἂν μαθάνῃ προσκαθορῶντι τὴν ἐπιστήμην· καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους δὴ κάλλιον ἐξετάσει περὶ ὧν ἂν καὶ αὐτὸς μάθῃ, οἱ δὲ ἄνευ τούτου ἐξετάζοντες ἀσθενέστερον καὶ φαυλότερον τοῦτο δράσουσιν; ἄρ', ὦ φίλε, τοιαῦτ' ἅττα ἐστὶν ἅ ἀπολαυσόμεθα

## CHARMIDES

who were governed by us, without error. For neither should we ourselves attempt to do what we did not know, instead of finding out those who knew and placing the matter in their hands, nor should we permit others under our governance to do anything but what they were likely to do aright; and they would do that when they had knowledge of it; and so it would be that a house which was ordered, or a state which was administered, as temperance bade, and everything else that was ruled by temperance, could not but be well ordered; for with error abolished, and rightness leading, in their every action men would be bound to do honourably and well under such conditions, and those who did well would be happy. Did we not so speak of temperance, I said, Critias, when we remarked how great a boon it was to know what one knows and what one does not know?

To be sure we did, he replied.

Whereas now, I went on, you see that nowhere can any such science be found.

I see, he said.

Then may we say, I asked, that there is this good point in the knowledge of knowledge and of lack of knowledge, which we now find to be what temperance is, that he who has it will not only learn more easily whatever he learns, but will perceive everything more plainly, since besides the particular things that he learns he will behold the science; and hence he will probe more surely the state of other men respecting the things which he has learnt himself, while those who probe without such knowledge will do it more feebly and poorly? Are these, my friend, the kind of advantages that we shall gain from temperance?

PLATO

C τῆς σωφροσύνης, ἡμεῖς δὲ μείζον τι βλέπομεν καὶ ζητοῦμεν αὐτὸ μείζον τι εἶναι ἢ ὅσον ἐστίν;

Τάχα δ' ἄν, ἔφη, οὕτως ἔχοι.

Ἴσως, ἦν δ' ἐγώ· ἴσως δέ γε ἡμεῖς οὐδὲν χρηστὸν ἐζητήσαμεν. τεκμαίρομαι δέ, ὅτι μοι ἄτοπ' ἄττα καταφαίνεται περὶ σωφροσύνης, εἰ τοιοῦτόν ἐστιν. ἴδωμεν γάρ, εἰ βούλει, συγχωρήσαντες καὶ ἐπίστασθαι ἐπιστήμην δυνατὸν εἶναι [εἰδέναί],<sup>1</sup> καὶ ὃ γε ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐτιθέμεθα σωφροσύνην εἶναι, τὸ εἰδέναί ἃ τε οἶδε καὶ ἃ μὴ οἶδε, μὴ ἀποστερήσωμεν,

D ἀλλὰ δῶμεν· καὶ πάντα ταῦτα δόντες ἔτι βέλτιον σκεψώμεθα, εἰ ἄρα τί καὶ ἡμᾶς ὀνήσει τοιοῦτον ὄν. ἃ γὰρ νῦν δὴ ἐλέγομεν, ὡς μέγα ἄν εἴη ἀγαθὸν ἢ σωφροσύνη, εἰ τοιοῦτον εἴη, ἡγουμένη διοικήσεως καὶ οἰκίας καὶ πόλεως, οὗ μοι δοκοῦμεν, ὦ Κριτία, καλῶς ὠμολογηκέναί.

Πῶς δὴ; ἦ δ' ὅς.

Ὅτι, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ῥαδίως ὠμολογήσαμεν μέγα τι ἀγαθὸν εἶναι τοῖς ἀνθρώποις, εἰ ἕκαστοι ἡμῶν, ἃ μὲν ἴσασι, πράττειεν ταῦτα, ἃ δὲ μὴ ἐπίσταντο, ἄλλοις παρατιδοῖεν τοῖς ἐπίσταμένοις.

E Οὐκ οὖν, ἔφη, καλῶς ὠμολογήσαμεν;

Οὐ μοι δοκοῦμεν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ.

Ἄτοπα λέγεις ὡς ἀληθῶς, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες.

Νῆ τὸν κύνα, ἔφην, καὶ ἐμοί τοι δοκεῖ οὕτω· κἀνταῦθα<sup>2</sup> καὶ ἄρτι ἀποβλέψας ἄτοπά γ' ἔφην μοι προφαίνεσθαι, καὶ ὅτι φοβοίμην μὴ οὐκ ὀρθῶς σκοποῖμεν. ὡς ἀληθῶς γάρ, εἰ ὅτι μάλιστα τοιοῦτόν ἐστιν ἢ σωφροσύνη, οὐδὲν μοι δῆλον  
173 εἶναι δοκεῖ ὃ τι ἀγαθὸν ἡμᾶς ἀπεργάζεται.

<sup>1</sup> εἰδέναί secl. Heusde.

## CHARMIDES

But are we really looking at something greater, and requiring it to be something greater than it really is ?

Probably, he replied, that is so.

I daresay, I said ; and I daresay also our inquiry has been worthless. And this I conclude, because I observe certain strange facts about temperance, if it is anything like that. For suppose, if you please, we concede that there may possibly be a science of science, and let us grant, and not withdraw, our original proposition that temperance is the knowledge of what one knows and does not know ; granting all this, let us still more thoroughly inquire whether on these terms it will be of any profit to us. For our suggestion just now, that temperance of that sort, as our guide in ordering house or state, must be a great boon, was not, to my thinking, Critias, a proper admission.

How so ? he asked.

Because, I replied, we too lightly admitted that it would be a great boon to mankind if each of us should do what he knows, but should place what he did not know in the hands of others who had the knowledge.

Well, was that, he asked, not a proper admission ?

Not to my mind, I answered.

In very truth, your words are strange ! he said, Socrates.

Yes, by the Dog, I said, and they strike me too in the same way ; and it was in view of this, just now, that I spoke of strange results that I noticed, and said I feared we were not inquiring rightly. For in truth, let temperance be ever so much what we say it is, I see nothing to show what good effect it has on us.

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<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> οὕτω. κἀνταῦθα Hermann : οὕτως εἰ ἐνταῦθα, οὕτως, οὕτως ἐνταῦθα MSS.

PLATO

Πῶς δὴ; ἢ δ' ὅς. λέγε, ἵνα καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰδῶμεν ὅ τι λέγεις.

Οἶμαι μὲν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ληρεῖν μὲν ὅμως τό γε προφαινόμενον ἀναγκαῖον σκοπεῖν καὶ μὴ εἰκῆ παριέναι, εἴ τίς γε αὐτοῦ καὶ σμικρὸν κήδεται.

Καλῶς γάρ, ἔφη, λέγεις.

Ἄκουε δὴ, ἔφη, τὸ ἐμὸν ὄναρ, εἴτε διὰ κεράτων εἴτε δι' ἐλέφαντος ἐλήλυθεν. εἰ γὰρ ὅτι μάλιστα ἡμῶν ἄρχοι ἢ σωφροσύνη, οὔσα οἶαν νῦν ὀριζόμεθα, B ἄλλο τι κατὰ τὰς ἐπιστήμας πάντ' ἂν<sup>1</sup> πράττοιτο, καὶ οὔτε τις κυβερνήτης φάσκων εἶναι, ὧν δὲ οὔ, ἐξαπατῶ ἂν ἡμᾶς, οὔτε ἰατρὸς οὔτε στρατηγὸς οὔτ' ἄλλος οὐδεὶς, προσποιοῦμένός τι εἰδέναί ὃ μὴ οἶδε, λανθάνοι ἄν. ἐκ δὴ τούτων οὔτως ἐχόντων ἄλλο ἂν ἡμῖν τι συμβαίνοι ἢ<sup>2</sup> ὑγιέσι τε τὰ σώματα εἶναι μᾶλλον ἢ νῦν, καὶ ἐν τῇ θαλάττῃ κινδυνεύοντας καὶ ἐν πολέμῳ σώζεσθαι, καὶ τὰ σκεύη καὶ τὴν ἀμπε- C χόνην καὶ ὑπόδεσιν πᾶσαν καὶ τὰ χρήματα πάντα τεχνικῶς ἡμῖν εἰργασμένα εἶναι καὶ ἄλλα πολλὰ διὰ τὸ ἀληθινοῖς δημιουργοῖς χρῆσθαι; εἰ δὲ βούλοιο γέ, καὶ τὴν μαντικὴν εἶναι συγχωρήσωμεν ἐπιστήμην τοῦ μέλλοντος ἔσεσθαι, καὶ τὴν σωφροσύνην, αὐτῆς ἐπιστατοῦσαν, τοὺς μὲν ἀλαζόνας ἀποτρέπειν, τοὺς δὲ ὡς ἀληθῶς μάντεις καθιστάναι ἡμῖν προφήτας τῶν μελλόντων. κατεσκευασμένοι δὴ οὔτω τὸ ἀνθρώπινον γένος ὅτι μὲν ἐπιστημόνως D ἂν πράττοι καὶ ζῶη, ἔπομαι· ἢ γὰρ σωφροσύνη φυλάττουσα οὐκ ἂν ἐώη παρεμπίπτουσαν τὴν ἀνεπιστημοσύνην συνεργὸν ἡμῖν εἶναι· ὅτι δ' ἐπιστημόνως ἂν πράττοντες εὖ ἂν πράττοιμεν καὶ

<sup>1</sup> πάντ' ἂν Burnet: πάντα Stobaeus, ἂν mss.

<sup>2</sup> ἢ add. Heindorf.

## CHARMIDES

How so? he asked: tell us, in order that we on our side may know what you mean.

I expect, I said, I am talking nonsense: but still one is bound to consider what occurs to one, and not idly ignore it, if one has even a little concern for oneself.

And you are quite right, he said.

Hear then, I said, my dream, whether it has come through horn or through ivory.<sup>1</sup> Suppose that temperance were such as we now define her, and that she had entire control of us: must it not be that every act would be done according to the sciences, and no one professing to be a pilot when he was not would deceive us, nor would a doctor, nor a general, nor anyone else pretending to know something he did not know, go undetected; and would not these conditions result in our having greater bodily health than we have now, safety in perils of the sea and war, and skilful workmanship in all our utensils, our clothes, our shoes, nay, everything about us, and various things besides, because we should be employing genuine craftsmen? And if you liked, we might concede that prophecy, as the knowledge of what is to be, and temperance directing her, will deter the charlatans, and establish the true prophets as our prognosticators. Thus equipped, the human race would indeed act and live according to knowledge, I grant you (for temperance, on the watch, would not suffer ignorance to foist herself in and take a hand in our labours), but that by acting according to knowledge we should do well and be happy—this is a

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Homer, *Od.* xix. 562 foll. Dreams are there described as issuing from two gates: dreams that come true are from the gate of horn; deceitful dreams are from the gate of ivory.

εὐδαιμονοῖμεν, τοῦτο δὲ οὐπω δυνάμεθα μαθεῖν,  
ὦ φίλε Κριτία.

Ἄλλὰ μέντοι, ἦ δ' ὅς, οὐ ραδίως εὐρήσεις ἄλλο  
τι τέλος τοῦ εὖ πράττειν, εἰὰν τὸ ἐπιστημόνως  
ἀτιμάσῃς.

Σμικρὸν τοίνυν με, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἔτι προσδίδαξον.  
τίνος ἐπιστημόνως λέγεις; ἢ σκυτῶν τομῆς;

Ε Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

Ἄλλὰ χαλκοῦ ἐργασίας;

Οὐδαμῶς.

Ἄλλὰ ἐρίων ἢ ξύλων ἢ ἄλλου του τῶν τοιούτων;

Οὐ δῆτα.

Οὐκ ἄρα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἔτι ἐμμένομεν τῷ λόγῳ τῷ  
εὐδαίμονα εἶναι τὸν ἐπιστημόνως ζῶντα. οὗτοι  
γὰρ ἐπιστημόνως ζῶντες οὐχ ὁμολογοῦνται παρὰ  
σοῦ εὐδαίμονες εἶναι, ἀλλὰ περί τινων ἐπιστημόνως  
ζῶντα<sup>1</sup> σὺ<sup>2</sup> δοκεῖς μοι ἀφορίζεσθαι τὸν εὐδαίμονα.

καὶ ἴσως λέγεις ὃν νῦν δὴ ἐγὼ ἔλεγον, τὸν εἰδότα  
174 τὰ μέλλοντα ἔσεσθαι πάντα, τὸν μάντιν. τοῦτον  
ἢ ἄλλον τινὰ λέγεις;

Καὶ τοῦτον ἔγωγε, ἔφη, καὶ ἄλλον.

Τίνα; ἦν δ' ἐγώ. ἄρα μὴ τὸν τοιόνδε, εἴ τις  
πρὸς τοῖς μέλλουσι καὶ τὰ γεγονότα πάντα εἰδείη  
καὶ τὰ νῦν ὄντα, καὶ μηδὲν ἀγνοοῖ; θῶμεν γάρ  
τινα εἶναι αὐτόν. οὐ γάρ, οἶμαι, τούτου γ' ἔτι ἂν  
εἴποις οὐδένα ἐπιστημονέστερον ζῶντα εἶναι.

Οὐ δῆτα.

Τόδε δὴ ἔτι προσποθῶ, τίς αὐτόν τῶν ἐπιστημῶν  
ποιεῖ εὐδαίμονα; ἢ ἅπασαι ὁμοίως;

<sup>1</sup> ζῶντα Schleiermacher: ζώντων MSS.

<sup>2</sup> σὺ Bekker: εὖ MSS.



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point which as yet we are unable to make out, my dear Critias.

But still, he replied, you will have some difficulty in finding any other fulfilment of welfare if you reject the rule of knowledge.

Then inform me further, I said, on one more little matter. Of what is this knowledge? Do you mean of shoe-making?

Good heavens, not I!

Well, of working in brass?

By no means.

Well, in wool, or in wood, or in something else of that sort?

No, indeed.

Then we no longer hold, I said, to the statement that he who lives according to knowledge is happy; for these workers, though they live according to knowledge, are not acknowledged by you to be happy: you rather delimit the happy man, it seems to me, as one who lives according to knowledge *about certain things*. And I daresay you are referring to my instance of a moment ago, the man who knows all that is to come, the prophet. Do you refer to him or to someone else?

Yes, I refer to him, he said, and someone else too.

Whom? I asked. Is it the sort of person who might know, besides what is to be, both everything that has been and now is, and might be ignorant of nothing? Let us suppose such a man exists: you are not going to tell me, I am sure, of anyone alive who is yet more knowing than he.

No, indeed.

Then there is still one more thing I would fain know: which of the sciences is it that makes him happy? Or does he owe it to all of them alike?

B Οὐδαμῶς ὁμοίως, ἔφη.

Ἄλλὰ ποία μάλιστα; ἢ τί οἶδε καὶ τῶν ὄντων καὶ τῶν γεγονότων καὶ τῶν μελλόντων ἔσεσθαι; ἀρά γε ἢ τὸ πεττευτικόν;

Ποῖον, ἢ δ' ὅς, πεττευτικόν;

Ἄλλ' ἢ τὸ λογιστικόν;

Οὐδαμῶς.

Ἄλλ' ἢ τὸ ὑγιεινόν;

Μᾶλλον, ἔφη.

Ἐκείνη δ' ἦν λέγω μάλιστα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἢ τί;

Ἦι τὸ ἀγαθόν, ἔφη, καὶ τὸ κακόν.

ὦ μιარέ, ἔφην ἐγώ, πάσαι με περιέλκεις κύκλω, ἀποκρυπτόμενος ὅτι οὐ τὸ ἐπιστημόνως ἦν ζῆν τὸ εὖ πράττειν τε καὶ εὐδαιμονεῖν ποιοῦν, οὐδὲ

C συμπασῶν τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν, ἀλλὰ μιᾶς οὐσης ταύτης μόνον τῆς περὶ τὸ ἀγαθόν τε καὶ κακόν. ἐπεὶ, ὦ Κριτία, εἰ θέλεις ἐξελεῖν ταύτην τὴν ἐπιστήμην ἐκ τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν, ἦττόν τι ἢ μὲν ἰατρικὴ ὑγιαίνειν ποιήσει, ἢ δὲ σκυτικὴ ὑποδεδέσθαι, ἢ δὲ ὑφαντικὴ ἡμφιέσθαι, ἢ δὲ κυβερνητικὴ κωλύσει ἐν τῇ θαλάττῃ ἀποθνήσκειν καὶ ἢ στρατηγικὴ ἐν πολέμῳ;

Οὐδὲν ἦττον, ἔφη.

Ἄλλ', ὦ φίλε Κριτία, τὸ εὖ γε τούτων ἕκαστα

D γίγνεσθαι καὶ ὠφελίμως ἀπολελοιπὸς ἡμᾶς ἔσται ταύτης ἀπούσης.

Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

Οὐχ αὕτη δέ γε, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐστὶν ἡ σωφροσύνη, ἀλλ' ἥς ἔργον ἐστὶ τὸ ὠφελεῖν ἡμᾶς. οὐ γὰρ ἐπιστημῶν γε καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσυνῶν ἢ ἐπιστήμη ἐστίν, ἀλλὰ ἀγαθοῦ τε καὶ κακοῦ· ὥστε εἰ αὕτη

## CHARMIDES

By no means to all alike, he replied.

But to which sort most? One that gives him knowledge of what thing, present, past or future? Is it that by which he knows draught-playing?

Draught-playing indeed! he replied.

Well, reckoning?

By no means.

Well, health?

More likely, he said.

And that science to which I refer as the most likely, I went on, gives him knowledge of what?

Of good, he replied, and of evil.

Vile creature! I said, you have all this time been dragging me round and round, while concealing the fact that the life according to knowledge does not make us do well and be happy, not even if it be knowledge of all the other knowledges together, but only if it is of this single one concerning good and evil. For, Critias, if you choose to take away this science from the whole number of them, will medicine any the less give us health, or shoemaking give us shoes, or weaving provide clothes, or will the pilot's art any the less prevent the loss of life at sea, or the general's in war?

None the less, he replied.

But, my-dear Critias, to have any of these things well and beneficially done will be out of our reach if that science is lacking.

That is true.

And that science, it seems, is not temperance, but one whose business is to benefit us; for it is not a science of sciences and lack of sciences, but of good

ἐστὶν ὠφέλιμος, ἢ σωφροσύνη ἄλλο τι ἂν εἴη  
[ἢ ὠφελίμη]<sup>1</sup> ἡμῖν.

Τί δ', ἢ δ' ὅς, οὐκ ἂν αὕτη ὠφελοῖ; εἰ γὰρ ὅτι  
μάλιστα τῶν ἐπιστημῶν ἐπιστήμη ἐστὶν ἢ σωφρο-  
E σύνη, ἐπιστατεῖ δὲ καὶ ταῖς ἄλλαις ἐπιστήμαις, καὶ  
ταύτης δήπου ἂν ἄρχουσα τῆς περὶ τὰγαθὸν  
ἐπιστήμης ὠφελοῖ ἂν ἡμᾶς.

Ἡ καὶ ὑγιαίνειν ποιοῖ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, αὕτη, ἀλλ' οὐχ  
ἢ ἰατρική; καὶ τᾶλλα τὰ τῶν τεχνῶν αὕτη ἂν  
ποιοῖ, καὶ οὐχ αἱ ἄλλαι τὸ αὐτῆς ἔργον ἐκάστη;  
ἢ οὐ πάλαι διεμαρτυρόμεθα, ὅτι ἐπιστήμης μόνον  
ἐστὶ καὶ ἀνεπιστημοσύνης ἐπιστήμη, ἄλλου δὲ  
οὐδενός· οὐχ οὕτως;

Φαίνεται γε.

Οὐκ ἄρα ὑγιείας ἔσται δημιουργός.

Οὐ· δῆτα.

175 "Αλλης γὰρ ἦν τέχνης ὑγεία· ἢ οὐ;

"Αλλης.

Οὐδ' ἄρα ὠφελείας, ὦ ἐταῖρε· ἄλλη γὰρ αὖ  
ἀπέδομεν τοῦτο τὸ ἔργον τέχνη νῦν δή· ἢ γάρ;

Πάνυ γε.

Πῶς οὖν ὠφέλιμος ἔσται ἢ σωφροσύνη, οὐδεμιᾶς  
ὠφελίας οὔσα δημιουργός;

Οὐδαμῶς, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἔοικέ γε.

Ἄρα οὖν, ὦ Κριτία, ὡς ἐγὼ πάλαι εἰκότως  
ἐδεδοίκη καὶ δικαίως ἐμαυτὸν ἠτιώμην ὅτι οὐδὲν  
χρηστὸν περὶ σωφροσύνης σκοπῶ; οὐ γὰρ ἂν που  
ὅ γε κάλλιστον πάντων ὁμολογεῖται εἶναι, τοῦτο  
B ἡμῖν ἀνωφελές ἐφάνη, εἴ τι ἐμοῦ ὄφελος ἦν πρὸς  
τὸ καλῶς ζητεῖν. νῦν δέ—πανταχῇ γὰρ ἠττώμεθα,  
καὶ οὐ δυνάμεθα εὐρεῖν ἐφ' ὅτῳ ποτὲ τῶν ὄντων ὁ

<sup>1</sup> ἢ ὠφελίμη secl. Madvig.

## CHARMIDES

and evil: so that if this is beneficial, temperance must be something else to us.

But why, he asked, should not *it* be beneficial? For if temperance is above all a science of the sciences, and presides too over the other sciences, surely she will govern this science of the good, and so benefit us.

And give us health also? I asked: will she, and not medicine, do this? And will the several works of the other arts be hers, and not the particular works of each art? Have we not constantly protested that she is only knowledge of knowledge and of lack of knowledge, and of nothing else? Is not that so?

Apparently it is.

Then she will not be a producer of health?

No, indeed.

For health, we said, belongs to another art, did we not?

We did.

Nor of benefit, my good friend; for this work, again, we assigned to another art just now, did we not?

Certainly.

Then how will temperance be beneficial, if it produces no benefit?

By no means, Socrates, as it seems.

So do you see, Critias, how all the time I had good reason for my fear, and fair ground for the reproach I made against myself, that my inquiry regarding temperance was worthless?<sup>1</sup> For I cannot think that what is admitted to be the noblest thing in the world would have appeared to us useless if I had been of any use for making a good search. But now, you see, we are worsted every way, and cannot discover what

<sup>1</sup> Cf. 172 c.

νομοθέτης τοῦτο τοῦνομα ἔθετο, τὴν σωφροσύνην. καίτοι πολλά γε συγκεχωρήκαμεν οὐ συμβαίνοισθ' ἡμῖν ἐν τῷ λόγῳ. καὶ γὰρ ἐπιστήμην ἐπιστήμης εἶναι συνεχωρήσαμεν, οὐκ ἔωντος τοῦ λόγου οὐδὲ φάσκοντος εἶναι· καὶ ταύτη αὐτῇ ἐπιστήμῃ καὶ τὰ

C τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν ἔργα γιγνώσκειν συνεχωρήσαμεν, οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἔωντος τοῦ λόγου, ἵνα δὴ ἡμῖν γένοιτο ὁ σώφρων ἐπιστήμων ὧν τε οἶδεν, ὅτι οἶδε, καὶ ὧν μὴ οἶδεν, ὅτι οὐκ οἶδε. τοῦτο μὲν δὴ καὶ παντάπασι μεγαλοπρεπῶς συνεχωρήσαμεν, οὐδ' ἐπισκεψάμενοι τὸ ἀδύνατον εἶναι, ἃ τις μὴ οἶδε μηδαμῶς, ταῦτα εἰδέναί ἀμῶς γέ πως· ὅτι γὰρ οὐκ οἶδε, φησὶν αὐτὰ εἰδέναί ἢ ἡμετέρα ὁμολογία. καίτοι, ὡς ἐγῶμαι, οὐδενὸς ὅτου οὐχὶ ἀλογώτερον τοῦτ' ἂν φανείη. ἀλλ' ὅμως οὕτως ἡμῶν εὐθητικῶν

D τυχοῦσα ἢ ζήτησις καὶ οὐ σκληρῶν, οὐδέν τι μᾶλλον εὐρεῖν δύναται τὴν ἀλήθειαν, ἀλλὰ τοσοῦτον κατεγέλασεν αὐτῆς, ὥστε ὁ ἡμεῖς πάσαι συνομολογοῦντες καὶ συμπλάττοντες ἐτιθέμεθα σωφροσύνην εἶναι, τοῦτο ἡμῖν πάνυ ὑβριστικῶς ἀνωφελὲς ὄν ἀπέφαινε. τὸ μὲν οὖν ἐμὸν καὶ ἦττον ἀγανακτῶ ὑπὲρ δὲ σοῦ, ἣν δ' ἐγώ, ὦ Χαρμίδη, πάνυ ἀγανακτῶ, εἰ σὺ τοιοῦτος ὧν τὴν ἰδέαν καὶ πρὸς

E τούτῳ τὴν ψυχὴν σωφρονέστατος, μηδὲν ὀνήσῃ ἀπὸ ταύτης τῆς σωφροσύνης μηδέ τί σ' ὠφελήσει ἐν τῷ βίῳ παρούσα. ἔτι δὲ μᾶλλον ἀγανακτῶ ὑπὲρ τῆς ἐπωδῆς, ἣν παρὰ τοῦ Θρακῶς ἔμαθον, εἰ μηδενὸς ἀξίου πράγματος οὔσαν αὐτὴν μετὰ πολλῆς σπουδῆς ἐμάνθανον. ταῦτ' οὖν πάνυ μὲν [οὔν]<sup>1</sup> οὐκ οἶομαι οὕτως ἔχειν, ἀλλ' ἐμὲ φαῦλον

<sup>1</sup> οὔν secl. Winckelmann.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. 156 D.

## CHARMIDES

thing it can possibly be to which the lawgiver gave this name, temperance. And yet we have conceded many points which were not deducible from our argument. For you know we conceded that there was a science of science, when the argument was against it and would not agree ; and we further conceded that this science could know the works also of the other sciences, when the argument was against this too, in order to make out that the temperate man had a knowledge of what he knew and did not know, so as to know that he knew the one and did not know the other. And we made this concession in a really magnificent manner, without considering the impossibility of a man knowing, in some sort of way, things that he does not know at all ; for our admission says that he knows that he does not know them ; and yet, in my opinion, there can be nothing more irrational than this. Nevertheless, although it has found us so simple-minded and tractable, the inquiry remains quite incapable of discovering the truth, but has utterly flouted it by most impudently showing us the inutility of that which we had been ever so long assuming, by our joint admissions and fictions, to be the meaning of temperance. Now, so far as I am concerned, I am not particularly distressed : but for your sake, I said, Charmides, I am seriously distressed to think that you, with your goodly form and most temperate soul besides, are to have no profit or advantage from the presence of that temperance in all your life. And I am still more distressed about the charm which I learnt from the Thracian,<sup>1</sup> that I should have spent so much pains on a lesson which has had such a worthless effect. Now I really do not think that this can be the case, but

176 εἶναι ζητητήν· ἐπεὶ τήν γε σωφροσύνην μέγα τι ἀγαθὸν εἶναι, καὶ εἴπερ γε ἔχεις αὐτό, μακάριον εἶναί σε. ἀλλ' ὄρα εἰ ἔχεις τε καὶ μηδὲν δέη τῆς ἐπωδῆς· εἰ γὰρ ἔχεις, μᾶλλον ἂν ἔγωγέ σοι συμβουλεύσαιμι ἐμὲ μὲν λήρον ἠγεῖσθαι εἶναι καὶ ἀδύνατον λόγῳ ὀτιοῦν ζητεῖν, σεαυτὸν δέ, ὅσῳπερ σωφρονέστερος εἶ, τοσοῦτω εἶναι καὶ εὐδαιμονέστερον.

Καὶ ὁ Χαρμίδης, Ἄλλὰ μὰ Δί', ἦ δ' ὅς, ἔγωγε, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐκ οἶδα οὐτ' εἰ ἔχω οὐτ' εἰ μὴ ἔχω. πῶς γὰρ ἂν εἰδείην ὅ γε μηδ' ὑμεῖς οἰοί τέ εἶστε Β ἔξευρεῖν ὅ τί ποτ' ἔστιν, ὡς φῆς σύ; ἐγὼ μέντοι οὐ πάνυ σοι πείθομαι, καὶ ἐμαυτόν, ὦ Σώκρατες, πάνυ οἶμαι δεῖσθαι τῆς ἐπωδῆς, καὶ τό γ' ἐμὸν οὐδὲν κωλύει ἐπάδεσθαι ὑπὸ σοῦ ὅσαι ἡμέραι, ἕως ἂν φῆς σὺ ἱκανῶς ἔχειν.

Εἶεν· ἀλλ', ἔφη ὁ Κριτίας, ὦ Χαρμίδη, <ἦν><sup>1</sup> δρᾶς τοῦτο ἔμοιγ' ἔσται τοῦτο τεκμήριον ὅτι σωφρονεῖς, ἦν ἐπάδειν παρέχῃς Σωκράτει καὶ μὴ ἀπολείπη τούτου μήτε μέγα μήτε σμικρόν.

Ὡς ἀκολουθήσοντος, ἔφη, καὶ μὴ ἀπολειψομένου· C δεινὰ γὰρ ἂν ποιοίην, εἰ μὴ πειθοίμην σοὶ τῷ ἐπιτρόπῳ καὶ μὴ ποιοίην ἃ κελεύεις.

Ἄλλὰ μὴν, ἔφη, κελεύω ἔγωγε.

Ποιήσω τοίνυν, ἔφη, ἀπὸ ταυτησὶ τῆς ἡμέρας ἀρξάμενος.

Οὔτοι, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, τί βουλεύεσθον ποιεῖν;

Οὐδέν, ἔφη ὁ Χαρμίδης, ἀλλὰ βεβουλεύμεθα.

Βιάσῃ ἄρα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, καὶ οὐδ' ἀνάκρισίν μοι δώσεις;

<sup>1</sup> ἦν add. Goldbacher.



## CHARMIDES

rather that I am a poor hand at inquiring; for temperance I hold to be a great good, and you to be highly blessed, if you actually have it. See now whether you have it, and are in no need of the charm; for if it is yours, I should rather advise you to regard me as a babbler who is unable to argue out any subject of inquiry whatsoever, and yourself as advancing in happiness as you advance in temperance.

Then Charmides said: Why, upon my word, Socrates, I do not know at all whether I have it or have it not. For how can I know, when even you two are unable to discover what this thing is?—so you say, but of this you do not at all convince me—and I quite believe, Socrates, that I do need the charm, and for my part I have no objection to being charmed by you every day of my life, until you say I have had enough of the treatment.

Very well, said Critias: now, Charmides, if you do this, it will be a proof to me of your temperance—if you submit to be charmed by Socrates and do not forsake him through thick and thin.

Count on me to follow, he said, and not forsake him; for it would ill become me to disobey you, my guardian, and refuse to do your bidding.

Well now, he said, I bid you.

Then I will do as you say, he replied, and will start this very day.

There, there, I said, what are you two plotting to do?

Nothing, replied Charmides; we have made our plot.

So you will use force, I said, before even allowing me to make my affidavit?

## PLATO

Ὡς βιασομένου, ἔφη, ἐπειδήπερ ὄδε γε ἐπιτάττει·  
πρὸς ταῦτα σὺ αὖ βουλεύου ὅ τι ποιήσεις.

D Ἄλλ' οὐδεμία, ἔφην ἐγώ, λείπεται βουλή· σοὶ  
γὰρ ἐπιχειροῦντι πράττειν ὅτιοῦν καὶ βιαζομένω  
οὐδεὶς οἴός τ' ἔσται ἐναντιοῦσθαι ἀνθρώπων.

Μὴ τοίνυν, ἦ δ' ὅς, μηδὲ σὺ ἐναντιοῦ.

Οὐ τοίνυν, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἐναντιώσομαι.

## CHARMIDES

You must expect me to use force, he replied, since he gives me the command : take counsel, therefore, on your side, as to what you will do.

But that leaves no room, I said, for counsel ; for if once you set about doing anything and use force, no man alive will be able to withstand you.

Then do not you, he said, withstand me.

Then I will not withstand you, I replied.



ALCIBIADES I



## INTRODUCTION TO *ALCIBIADES I*

THE *First Alcibiades* gives us a clear and useful, if rather inelegant, illustration of the ordinary teaching of Socrates. He accosts his young friend at a critical moment of opening manhood, and makes him admit, by willing replies to a series of carefully designed questions, that he is ignorant of the most important things which ought to be known by one about to enter upon a public career. In the first part (103–114) we are shown that Alcibiades is going to advise the state on questions of peace and war, and must therefore know what is just and what unjust: but he could only have acquired this knowledge from the multitude, whose perpetual quarrels seem to show that they lack it; and if he says that it is rather on the expedient and inexpedient that he proposes to advise them, we want to know in turn what these are. In the second part (115–127) we find that the just is the honourable, good and expedient; and Alcibiades is further humiliated by a sly use of the double meaning of “doing well”—acting aright, and prospering. Other Athenian statesmen, including even Pericles (who is supposed to be still alive), are just as ignorant as Alcibiades, and he may be at no disadvantage in competition with them: but his real competitors in the race for power and glory are persons like the kings of Sparta and Persia, whose

## INTRODUCTION TO *ALCIBIADES I*

training, wealth, and authority are described at some length and in lively detail. For such a contest it is necessary that Alcibiades should avail himself of all the help that Socrates can give him. They must join equally in the inquiry—What is the goodness required in a statesman? It seems to have something to do with friendship and harmony among the people; and yet justice surely consists in everyone doing his own work, and this does not make for harmony. Alcibiades is sorely puzzled, but fortunately he is not too old to learn. The third and last section (128–135) deals with the Delphic maxim *Know thyself*, and what it may be supposed to mean. To know oneself is to know one's mind, and is true prudence or "temperance," which, with justice, is a necessary condition of happiness.

The imaginary time of the conversation is about 432 B.C., when Alcibiades was eighteen years old. He is now losing the extraordinary physical beauty of his boyhood, and is turning his mind to the political power whose attainment is the obvious aim of an able and ambitious man. It is at this moment that Socrates, an admirer who has held aloof from him till now, exposes by skilful questioning his false conceit of knowledge and his desperate need of knowing, in the first place, his own mind. The method of interrogation, and the language used by both speakers, are quite of a piece with those in other early dialogues of Plato. The somewhat lengthy speech of Socrates about the royal families of Persia and Sparta (121–124), though it has some pleasant touches of Socratic humour, is perhaps a little out of character in a scene where so much emphasis is laid on the point that all the positive statements come from Alcibiades and



## INTRODUCTION TO *ALCIBIADES I*

none from Socrates ; and the identification of soul with man (130 c) is a crude and unsatisfactory suggestion compared with the later theories of the *Gorgias* (464 A) and other dialogues. But on the whole there seems to be no sufficient reason for doubting, with some eminent scholars, the authenticity of this dialogue, if it be remembered that the work is probably one of Plato's earliest sketches, composed in the years immediately following the death of Socrates (399 B.C.) ; that from the third century A.D. it has been regarded and studied as an exemplary piece of Academic teaching ; and that it is natural to suppose that the series of Plato's compositions would begin with some immature and relatively inartistic essays in dialogue-writing. When he came to conceive the *Symposium*, Plato was able to draw far fuller and finer portraits of both Socrates and Alcibiades, and to vivify their friendly converse by many a masterly stroke of dramatic art.

# ΑΛΚΙΒΙΑΔΗΣ

[Η ΠΕΡΙ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥ ΦΥΣΕΩΣ· ΜΑΙΕΥΤΙΚΟΣ]

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ, ΑΛΚΙΒΙΑΔΗΣ

St. II  
p. 103

ΣΩ. ὦ παῖ Κλεινίου, οἶμαί σε θαυμάζειν, ὅτι πρῶτος ἐραστής σου γενόμενος τῶν ἄλλων πεπαυμένων μόνος οὐκ ἀπαλλάττομαι, καὶ ὅτι οἱ μὲν ἄλλοι δι' ὄχλου ἐγένοντό σοι διαλεγόμενοι, ἐγὼ δὲ τοσοῦτων ἐτῶν οὐδὲ προσεῖπον. τούτου δὲ τὸ αἴτιον γέγονεν οὐκ ἀνθρώπειον, ἀλλὰ τι δαιμόνιον ἐναντίωμα, οὗ σὺ τὴν δύναμιν καὶ ὕστερον πεύσῃ· νῦν δ' ἐπειδὴ οὐκέτι ἐναντιοῦται, οὕτω προσελήλυθα· εὐελπίς δέ εἰμι καὶ τὸ λοιπὸν μὴ ἐναντιώσεσθαι αὐτό. σχεδὸν οὖν κατανεόηκα ἐν τούτῳ τῷ χρόνῳ σκοπούμενος ὡς πρὸς τοὺς ἐραστὰς ἔσχες· πολλῶν γὰρ γενομένων καὶ μεγαλοφρόνων οὐδεὶς ὃς οὐχ ὑπερβληθεὶς τῷ φρονήματι ὑπὸ σοῦ πέφευγεν, τὸν δὲ λόγον, 104 ὧ ὑπερπεφρόνηκας, ἐθέλω διελθεῖν. οὐδενὸς φῆς ἀνθρώπων ἐνδεῆς εἶναι εἰς οὐδέν· τὰ γὰρ ὑπάρχοντά σοι μεγάλα εἶναι, ὥστε μηδενὸς δεῖσθαι, ἀπὸ τοῦ σώματος ἀρξάμενα τελευτῶντα εἰς τὴν ψυχὴν.

<sup>1</sup> Socrates refers to the "spiritual sign" which occasionally warned him against an intended action: cf. *Apol.* 31 c d, 40 A B.

# ALCIBIADES I

[OR ON THE NATURE OF MAN : “ OBSTETRIC ”]

## CHARACTERS

SOCRATES, ALCIBIADES

soc. Son of Cleinias, I think it must surprise you that I, the first of all your lovers, am the only one of them who has not given up his suit and thrown you over, and whereas they have all pestered you with their conversation I have not spoken one word to you for so many years. The cause of this has been nothing human, but a certain spiritual opposition,<sup>1</sup> of whose power you shall be informed at some later time. However, it now opposes me no longer, so I have accordingly come to you ; and I am in good hopes that it will not oppose me again in the future. Now I have been observing you all this time, and have formed a pretty good notion of your behaviour to your lovers : for although they were many and high-spirited, everyone of them has found your spirit too strong for him and has run away. Let me explain the reason of your spirit being too much for them. You say you have no need of any man in any matter ; for your resources are so great, beginning with the body and ending with the soul, that you lack nothing.

## PLATO

οἶει γὰρ δὴ εἶναι πρῶτον μὲν κάλλιστός τε καὶ μέγιστος· καὶ τοῦτο μὲν δὴ παντὶ δῆλον ἰδεῖν ὅτι οὐ ψεύδῃ· ἔπειτα νεανικωτάτου γένους ἐν τῇ σεαυτοῦ πόλει, οὔση μεγίστη τῶν Ἑλληνίδων, καὶ  
 B ἐνταῦθα πρὸς πατρός τέ σοι φίλους καὶ συγγενεῖς πλείστους εἶναι καὶ ἀρίστους, οἳ εἴ τι δέοι ὑπηρετοῖεν ἄν σοι, τούτων δὲ τοὺς πρὸς μητρὸς οὐδὲν χείρους οὐδ' ἐλάττους· συμπάντων δὲ ὧν εἶπον μείζω οἶει σοι δύναμιν ὑπάρχειν Περικλέα τὸν Ξανθίππου, ὃν ὁ πατήρ ἐπίτροπον κατέλιπε σοί τε καὶ τῷ ἀδελφῷ· ὃς οὐ μόνον ἐν τῇδε τῇ πόλει δύναται πράττειν ὅ τι ἂν βούληται, ἀλλ' ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἑλλάδι καὶ τῶν βαρβάρων ἐν πολλοῖς καὶ  
 C μεγάλοις γένεσιν. προσθήσω δὲ καὶ ὅτι τῶν πλουσίων· δοκεῖς δέ μοι ἐπὶ τούτῳ ἤκιστα μέγα φρονεῖν. κατὰ πάντα δὴ ταῦτα σύ τε μεγαλαυχούμενος κεκράτηκας τῶν ἐραστῶν ἐκεῖνοί τε ὑποδεέστεροι ὄντες ἐκρατήθησαν, καὶ σε ταῦτ' οὐ λέληθεν· ὅθεν δὴ εὖ οἶδα ὅτι θαυμάζεις, τί διανοούμενός ποτε οὐκ ἀπαλλάττομαι τοῦ ἔρωτος, καὶ ἦντιν' ἔχων ἐλπίδα ὑπομένω τῶν ἄλλων πεφευγόντων.

AΛΚ. Καὶ ἴσως γε, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐκ οἶσθ' ὅτι  
 D σμικρόν με ἔφθης. ἐγὼ γάρ τοι ἐν νῶ εἶχον πρότερός σοι προσελθὼν αὐτὰ ταῦτ' ἐρέσθαι, τί ποτε βούλει καὶ εἰς τίνα ἐλπίδα βλέπων ἐνοχλεῖς με, αἰεὶ ὅπου ἂν ὦ ἐπιμελέστατα παρών· τῷ ὄντι γὰρ θαυμάζω, ὅ τί ποτ' ἐστὶ τὸ σὸν πρᾶγμα, καὶ ἦδιστ' ἂν πυθοίμην.

ΣΩ. Ἀκούσῃ μὲν ἄρα μου, ὡς τὸ εἶκός, προθύμως, εἶπερ, ὡς φῆς, ἐπιθυμεῖς εἰδέναί τί δια-

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You think, in the first place, that you are foremost in beauty and stature—and you are not mistaken in this, as is plain for all to see—and in the second place, that you are of the most gallant family in your city, the greatest city in Greece, and that there you have, through your father, very many of the best people as your friends and kinsmen, who would assist you in case of need, and other connexions also, through your mother, who are not a whit inferior to these, nor fewer. And you reckon upon a stronger power than all those that I have mentioned, in Pericles, son of Xanthippus, whom your father left as guardian of you and your brother when he died, and who is able to do whatever he likes not only in this city but all over Greece and among many great nations of the barbarians. And I will add besides the wealth of your house: but on this, I observe, you presume least of all. Well, you puff yourself up on all these advantages, and have overcome your lovers, while they in their inferiority have yielded to your might, and all this has not escaped you; so I am very sure that you wonder what on earth I mean by not getting rid of my passion, and what can be my hope in remaining when the rest have fled.

ALC. Perhaps also, Socrates, you are not aware that you have only just anticipated me. For I, in fact, had the intention of coming and asking you first that very same question—what is your aim and expectation in bothering me by making a particular point of always turning up wherever I may be. For I really do wonder what can be your object, and should be very glad if you would tell me.

SOC. Then you will listen to me, presumably, with keen attention if, as you say, you long to know what

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νοοῦμαι, καὶ ὡς ἀκουσομένῳ καὶ περιμενοῦντι λέγω.

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν· ἀλλὰ λέγε.

Ε ΣΩ. Ὅρα δὴ· οὐ γάρ τοι εἶη ἂν θαυμαστὸν εἶ, ὥσπερ μόγισ ἠρξάμην, οὕτω καὶ μόγισ παυσαίμην.

ΑΛΚ. ὦ γὰθὲ λέγε· ἀκούσομαι γάρ.

ΣΩ. Λεκτέον ἂν εἶη. χαλεπὸν μὲν οὖν πρὸς ἄνδρα οὐχ ἥττονα ἐραστῶν προσφέρεσθαι ἐραστῇ, ὅμως δὲ τολμητέον φράσαι τὴν ἐμὴν διάνοιαν. ἐγὼ γάρ, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, εἰ μὲν σέ ἐώρων ἅ νῦν δὴ διηλθον ἀγαπῶντά τε καὶ οἰόμενον δεῖν ἐν τούτοις καταβιῶναι, πάλαι ἂν ἀπηλλάγμην τοῦ ἔρωτος, 105 ὥς γε δὴ ἐμαυτὸν πείθω· νῦν δὲ ἕτερα αὐ κατηγορήσω διανοήματα σὰ πρὸς αὐτὸν σέ, ὧ καὶ γνώση, ὅτι προσέχων γέ σοι τὸν νοῦν διατετέλεκα. δοκεῖς γάρ μοι, εἴ τίς σοι εἶποι θεῶν· ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, πότερον βούλει ζῆν ἔχων ἅ νῦν ἔχεις, ἢ αὐτίκα τεθνάναι, εἰ μὴ σοι ἐξέσται μείζω κτήσασθαι; δοκεῖς ἂν μοι ἐλέσθαι τεθνάναι· ἀλλὰ νῦν ἐπὶ τίνι δὴ ποτε ἐλπίδι ζῆς, ἐγὼ φράσω. ἡγῆ, εἰ ἂν θᾶπτον εἰς τὸν Ἀθηναίων δῆμον παρέλθης—τοῦτο δὲ Β ἔσεσθαι μάλα ὀλίγων ἡμερῶν—παρελθὼν οὖν ἐνδείξεσθαι Ἀθηναίοις, ὅτι ἄξιος εἶ τιμᾶσθαι ὡς οὔτε Περικλῆς οὔτ' ἄλλος οὐδεὶς τῶν πρόποτε γενομένων, καὶ τοῦτο ἐνδείξάμενος μέγιστον δυνήσεσθαι ἐν τῇ πόλει, εἰ ἂν δ' ἐνθάδε μέγιστος ᾦς, καὶ ἐν τοῖς ἄλλοις Ἑλλησι, καὶ οὐ μόνον ἐν Ἑλλησιν ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐν τοῖς βαρβάροις, ὅσοι ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ ἡμῖν οἰκοῦσιν ἠπείρω. καὶ εἰ αὐ σοι εἶποι ὁ αὐτὸς οὗτος θεὸς ὅτι αὐτοῦ σε δεῖ δυναστεύειν ἐν τῇ

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I mean, and I have in you a listener who will stay to hear me out.

ALC. Why, to be sure : only speak.

soc. Look to it, then ; for it would be no wonder if I should make as much difficulty about stopping as I have made about starting.

ALC. My good sir, speak ; for I will listen.

soc. Speak I must, I suppose. Now, although it is hard for a lover to parley with a man who does not yield to lovers, I must make bold nevertheless to put my meaning into words. For if I saw you, Alcibiades, content with the things I set forth just now, and minded to pass your life in enjoying them, I should long ago have put away my love, so at least I persuade myself : but as it is, I shall propound to your face quite another set of your thoughts, whereby you will understand that I have had you continually before my mind. For I believe, if some god should ask you : “ Alcibiades, do you prefer to live with your present possessions, or to die immediately if you are not to have the chance of acquiring greater things ? ” I believe you would choose to die. But let me tell you what I imagine must be the present hope of your life. You think that if you come shortly before the Athenian Assembly—which you expect to occur in a very few days—you will stand forth and prove to the people that you are more worthy of honour than either Pericles or anyone else who has ever existed, and that having proved this you will have the greatest power in the state ; and that if you are the greatest here, you will be the same among all the other Greeks, and not only Greeks, but all the barbarians who inhabit the same continent with us. And if that same god should say to you again, that you are to

- C Εὐρώπη, διαβῆναι δὲ εἰς τὴν Ἀσίαν οὐκ ἐξέσται σοι οὐδ' ἐπιθέσθαι τοῖς ἐκεῖ πράγμασιν, οὐκ ἂν αὖ μοι δοκεῖς ἐθέλειν οὐδ' ἐπὶ τούτοις μόνοις ζῆν, εἰ μὴ ἐμπλήσεις τοῦ σοῦ ὀνόματος καὶ τῆς σῆς δυνάμεως πάντας, ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν, ἀνθρώπους· καὶ οἶμαί σε πλὴν Κύρου καὶ Ξέρξου ἠγεῖσθαι οὐδένα ἄξιον λόγου γεγονέναι. ὅτι μὲν οὖν ἔχεις ταύτην τὴν ἐλπίδα, εὖ οἶδα καὶ οὐκ εἰκάζω. ἴσως ἂν οὖν εἴποις, ἅτε εἰδὼς ὅτι ἀληθῆ λέγω· τί δὴ οὖν, ᾧ
- D Σώκρατες, τοῦτό ἐστί σοι πρὸς λόγον [ὄν ἔφησθα ἐρεῖν, δι' ὃ ἐμοῦ οὐκ ἀπαλλάττη]<sup>1</sup>; ἐγὼ δὲ σοί γε ἐρῶ, ᾧ φίλε παῖ Κλεινίου καὶ Δεινομάχης. τούτων γάρ σοι ἀπάντων τῶν διανοημάτων τέλος ἐπιτεθῆναι ἄνευ ἐμοῦ ἀδύνατον· τοσαύτην ἐγὼ δύναμιν οἶμαι ἔχειν εἰς τὰ σὰ πράγματα καὶ εἰς σέ· διὸ δὴ καὶ πάλαι οἶομαί με τὸν θεὸν οὐκ ἔαν διαλέγεσθαι σοι, ὃν ἐγὼ περιέμενον ὀπηνίκα ἐάσει. ὡσπερ γὰρ
- E σὺ ἐλπίδας ἔχεις ἐν τῇ πόλει ἐνδειξάσθαι ὅτι αὐτῇ παντὸς ἄξιος εἶ, ἐνδειξάμενος δὲ οὐδὲν ὅτι οὐ παραυτίκα δυνήσεσθαι, οὕτω καὶ γὰρ παρὰ σοὶ ἐλπίζω μέγιστον δυνήσεσθαι ἐνδειξάμενος ὅτι παντὸς ἄξιός εἰμί σοι, καὶ οὐτ' ἐπίτροπος οὔτε συγγενῆς οὔτε ἄλλος οὐδεὶς ἱκανὸς παραδοῦναι τὴν δύναμιν ἧς ἐπιθυμεῖς πλὴν ἐμοῦ, μετὰ τοῦ θεοῦ μέντοι. νεωτέρῳ μὲν οὖν ὄντι σοι καὶ πρὶν τοσαύτης ἐλπίδος γέμειν, ὡς ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ, οὐκ εἶα ὁ θεὸς διαλέγεσθαι, ἵνα μὴ μάτην διαλεγοίμην· νῦν δὲ
- 106 ἐφῆκε· νῦν γὰρ ἂν μου ἀκούσαιο.
- ΑΛΚ. Πολύ γέ μοι, ᾧ Σώκρατες, νῦν ἀτοπώτερος αὖ φαίνη, ἐπειδὴ ἤρξω λέγειν, ἢ ὅτε σιγῶν

<sup>1</sup> ὄν . . . ἀπαλλάττη secl. Burnet.



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hold sway here in Europe, but are not to be allowed to cross over into Asia and to interfere with the affairs of that region, I believe you would be equally loth to live on those sole conditions either—if you are not to fill, one may say, the whole world with your name and your power ; and I fancy that, except Cyrus and Xerxes, you think there has never existed a single man who was of any account. So then that this is your hope, I know well enough ; I am not merely guessing. And I daresay you will reply, since you know that what I say is true : “ Well, Socrates, and what has that to do with your point ? ” I am going to tell you, dear son of Cleinias and Deinomache. Without me it is impossible for all those designs of yours to be crowned with achievement ; so great is the power I conceive myself to have over your affairs and over you, and it is for this very reason, I believe, that the god has so long prevented me from talking with you, and I was waiting to see when he would allow me. For as you have hopes of proving yourself in public to be invaluable to the state and, having proved it, of winning forthwith unlimited power, so do I hope to win supreme power over you by proving that I am invaluable to you, and that neither guardian nor kinsman nor anyone else is competent to transmit to you the power that you long for except me, with the god’s help, however. In your younger days, to be sure, before you had built such high hopes, the god, as I believe, prevented me from talking with you, in order that I might not waste my words : but now he has set me on ; for now you will listen to me.

ALC. You seem to me far more extraordinary, Socrates, now that you have begun to speak, than before, when you followed me about in silence ;

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εἶπου· καίτοι σφόδρα γε ἤσθ' ἰδεῖν καὶ τότε τοιοῦτος. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἐγὼ ταῦτα διανοοῦμαι ἢ μὴ, ὡς ἔοικε, διέγνωκας, καὶ ἐὰν μὴ φῶ, οὐδέν μοι ἔσται πλεόν πρὸς τὸ πείθειν σε. εἶεν· εἰ δὲ δὴ ὅτι μάλιστα ταῦτα διανενόημαι, πῶς διὰ σοῦ μοι ἔσται καὶ ἄνευ σοῦ οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο; ἔχεις λέγειν;

**B** ΣΩ. Ἐρωτᾶς εἴ τινα ἔχω εἰπεῖν λόγον μακρόν, οἷους δὴ ἀκούειν εἴθισαι; οὐ γάρ ἐστι τοιοῦτον τὸ ἐμόν· ἀλλ' ἐνδείξασθαι μὲν σοι, ὡς ἐγῶμαι, οἷός τ' ἂν εἶην ὅτι ταῦτα οὕτως ἔχει, ἐὰν ἐν μόνον μοι ἐθελήσης βραχὺ ὑπηρετῆσαι.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' εἴ γε δὴ μὴ χαλεπὸν τι λέγεις τὸ ὑπηρέτημα, ἐθέλω.

ΣΩ. Ἡ<sup>1</sup> χαλεπὸν δοκεῖ τὸ ἀποκρίνασθαι τὰ ἐρωτώμενα;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ χαλεπόν.

ΣΩ. Ἀποκρίνου δὴ.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐρώτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὡς διανοουμένου σου ταῦτα ἐρωτῶ,

**C** ἄ φημί σε διανοεῖσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Ἔστω, εἰ βούλει, οὕτως, ἵνα καὶ εἰδῶ ὅ τι ἐρεῖς.

ΣΩ. Φέρε δὴ· διανοῆ γάρ, ὡς ἐγὼ φημι, παριέναι συμβουλευσῶν Ἀθηναίοις ἐντὸς οὐ πολλοῦ χρόνου· εἰ οὖν μέλλοντός σου ἵεναι ἐπὶ τὸ βῆμα λαβόμενος ἐροίμην· ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, ἐπειδὴ περὶ τίνος Ἀθηναῖοι διανοοῦνται βουλευέσθαι, ἀνίστασαι συμβουλευσῶν; ἂρ' ἐπειδὴ περὶ ὧν σὺ ἐπίστασαι βέλτιον ἢ οὗτοι; τί ἂν ἀποκρίναιο;

**D** ΑΛΚ. Εἴποίμ' ἂν δήπου, περὶ ὧν οἶδα βέλτιον ἢ οὗτοι.

<sup>1</sup> ἢ Buttman: εἰ mss.

## ALCIBIADES I

though even then you looked strange enough. Well, as to my intending all this or not, you have apparently made your decision, and any denial of mine will not avail me to persuade you. Very good : but supposing I have intended ever so much what you say, how are you the sole means through which I can hope to attain it ? Can you tell me ?

soc. Are you asking whether I can make a long speech, such as you are used to hearing ? No, my gift is not of that sort. But I fancy I could prove to you that the case is so, if you will consent to do me just one little service.

ALC. Why, if you mean a service that is not troublesome, I consent.

soc. Do you consider it troublesome to answer questions put to you ?

ALC. No, I do not.

soc. Then answer.

ALC. Ask.

soc. Well, you have the intentions which I say you have, I suppose ?

ALC. Be it so, if you like, in order that I may know what you will say next.

soc. Now then : you intend, as I say, to come forward as adviser to the Athenians in no great space of time ; well, suppose I were to take hold of you as you were about to ascend the platform, and were to ask you : " Alcibiades, on what subject do the Athenians propose to take advice, that you should stand up to advise them ? Is it something about which you have better knowledge than they ? " What would be your reply ?

ALC. I should say, I suppose, it was something about which I knew better than they.

ΣΩ. Περὶ ὧν ἄρ' εἰδὼς τυγχάνεις, ἀγαθὸς σύμβουλος εἶ.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ταῦτα μόνον οἶσθα, ἃ παρ' ἄλλων ἔμαθες ἢ αὐτὸς ἐξῆῦρες;

ΑΛΚ. Ποῖα γὰρ ἄλλα;

ΣΩ. Ἔστιν οὖν ὅπως ἂν ποτε ἔμαθές τι ἢ ἐξῆῦρες μήτε μαθάνειν ἐθέλων μήτε αὐτὸς ζητεῖν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔστιν.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; ἠθέλησας ἂν ζητῆσαι ἢ μαθεῖν ἃ ἐπίστασθαι ὦου;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

Ε ΣΩ. Ἄ ἄρα νῦν τυγχάνεις ἐπιστάμενος, ἦν χρόνος ὅτε οὐχ ἠγοῦ εἰδέναί;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὴν ἃ γε μεμάθηκας, σχεδόν τι καὶ ἐγὼ οἶδα· εἰ δέ τι ἐμὲ λέληθεν, εἰπέ. ἔμαθες γὰρ δὴ σύ γε κατὰ μνήμην τὴν ἐμὴν γράμματα καὶ κιθαρίζειν καὶ παλαίειν· οὐ γὰρ δὴ αὐλεῖν γε ἠθελές μαθεῖν· ταῦτ' ἐστὶν ἃ σὺ ἐπίστασαι, εἰ μή πού τι μαθάνων ἐμὲ λέληθας· οἶμαι δέ γε, οὔτε νύκτωρ οὔτε μεθ' ἡμέραν ἐξῶν ἔνδοθεν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' οὐ πεφοίτηκα εἰς ἄλλων ἢ τούτων.

107 ΣΩ. Πότερον οὖν, ὅταν περὶ γραμμάτων Ἀθηναῖοι βουλευῶνται, πῶς ἂν ὀρθῶς γράφοιεν, τότε ἀναστήσει αὐτοῖς συμβουλευσῶν;

ΑΛΚ. Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ὅταν περὶ κρουμάτων ἐν λύρα;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐδαμῶς.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲ μὴν οὐδὲ περὶ παλαισμάτων γε εἰώθασι βουλευέσθαι ἐν τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μέντοι.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. Then you are a good adviser on things about which you actually know.

ALC. To be sure.

soc. And you know only the things you have learnt from others or discovered yourself ?

ALC. What could I know besides ?

soc. And can it be that you would ever have learnt or discovered anything without being willing either to learn it or to inquire into it yourself ?

ALC. No.

soc. Well then, would you have been willing to inquire into or learn what you thought you knew ?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. So there was a time when you did not think that you knew what you now actually know.

ALC. There must have been.

soc. Well, but I know pretty nearly the things that you have learnt : tell me if anything has escaped me. You learnt, if I recollect, writing and harping and wrestling ; as for fluting, you refused to learn it. These are the things that you know, unless perhaps there is something you have been learning unobserved by me ; and this you were not, I believe, if you so much as stepped out of doors either by night or by day.

ALC. No, I have taken no other lessons than those.

soc. Then tell me, will it be when the Athenians are taking advice how they are to do their writing correctly that you are to stand up and advise them ?

ALC. Upon my word, not I.

soc. Well, about strokes on the lyre ?

ALC. Not at all.

soc. Nor in fact are they accustomed to deliberate on throws in wrestling either at the Assembly.

ALC. No, to be sure.

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ΣΩ. Ὄταν οὖν περὶ τίνος βουλευῶνται; οὐ γάρ που ὅταν γε περὶ οἰκοδομίας.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

Β ΣΩ. Οἰκοδόμος γὰρ ταῦτά γε σοῦ βέλτιον συμβουλεύσει.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲ μὴν ὅταν περὶ μαντικῆς βουλευῶνται;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ.

ΣΩ. Μάντις γὰρ αὐ ταῦτα ἄμεινον ἢ σύ.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐάν τέ γε σμικρὸς ἢ μέγας ἦ, ἐάν τε καλὸς ἢ αἰσχροῦς, ἔτι τε γενναῖος ἢ ἀγεννῆς.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

ΣΩ. Εἰδότος γάρ, οἶμαι, περὶ ἐκάστου ἢ συμβουλή, καὶ οὐ πλουτοῦντος.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἐάν τε πένης ἐάν τε πλούσιος ἦ ὁ παραινῶν, οὐδὲν διοίσει Ἀθηναίοις, ὅταν περὶ τῶν  
C ἐν τῇ πόλει βουλευῶνται, πῶς ἂν ὑγιαίνοιεν, ἀλλὰ ζητοῦσιν ἰατρὸν εἶναι τὸν σύμβουλον.

ΑΛΚ. Εἰκότως γε.

ΣΩ. Ὄταν οὖν περὶ τίνος σκοπῶνται, τότε σὺ ἀνιστάμενος ὡς συμβουλεύσων ὀρθῶς ἀναστήσῃ;

ΑΛΚ. Ὄταν περὶ τῶν ἑαυτῶν πραγμάτων, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Τῶν περὶ ναυπηγίας λέγεις, ὁποίας τινὰς χρὴ αὐτοὺς τὰς ναῦς ναυπηγεῖσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔγωγε, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Ναυπηγεῖν γάρ, οἶμαι, οὐκ ἐπίστασαι. τοῦτ' αἴτιον ἢ ἄλλο τι;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τοῦτο.

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soc. Then what will be the subject of the advice ?  
For I presume it will not be about building.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. For a builder will give better advice than you  
in that matter.

ALC. Yes.

soc. Nor yet will it be about divination ?

ALC. No.

soc. For there again a diviner will serve better  
than you.

ALC. Yes.

soc. Whether he be short or tall, handsome or ugly,  
nay, noble or ignoble.

ALC. Of course.

soc. For on each subject the advice comes from  
one who knows, not one who has riches.

ALC. Of course.

soc. And whether their mentor be poor or rich will  
make no difference to the Athenians when they  
deliberate for the health of the citizens ; all that  
they require of their counsellor is that he be a  
physician.

ALC. Naturally.

soc. Then what will they have under consideration  
if you are to be right in standing up, when you do so,  
as their counsellor ?

ALC. Their own affairs, Socrates.

soc. Do you mean with regard to shipbuilding, and  
the question as to what sort of ships they ought to  
get built ?

ALC. No, I do not, Socrates.

soc. Because, I imagine, you do not understand  
shipbuilding. Is that, and that alone, the reason ?

ALC. That is just the reason.

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D    ζΩ. Ἄλλὰ περὶ ποίων τῶν ἑαυτῶν λέγεις  
πραγμάτων ὅταν βουλευῶνται;

ΑΛΚ. Ὅταν περὶ πολέμου, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἢ περὶ  
εἰρήνης ἢ ἄλλου του τῶν τῆς πόλεως πραγμάτων.

ζΩ. Ἄρα λέγεις, ὅταν βουλευῶνται, πρὸς τίνας  
χρῆ εἰρήνην ποιεῖσθαι καὶ τίσι πολεμεῖν καὶ τίνα  
τρόπον;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ζΩ. Χρῆ δ' οὐχ οἷς βέλτιον;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

E    ζΩ. Καὶ τότε ὁπότε βέλτιον;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ζΩ. Καὶ τοσοῦτον χρόνον ὅσον ἄμεινον;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ζΩ. Εἰ οὖν βουλευοῦντο Ἀθηναῖοι, τίσι χρῆ  
προσπαλαίειν καὶ τίσιν ἀκροχειρίζεσθαι καὶ τίνα  
τρόπον, σὺ ἄμεινον ἂν συμβουλεύοις ἢ ὁ παιδοτρίβης;

ΑΛΚ. Ὁ παιδοτρίβης δήπου.

ζΩ. Ἐχεις οὖν εἰπεῖν, πρὸς τί <ἂν><sup>1</sup> βλέπων ὁ  
παιδοτρίβης συμβουλεύσειεν οἷς δεῖ προσπαλαίειν  
καὶ οἷς μή, καὶ ὁπότε καὶ ὄντινα τρόπον; λέγω  
δὲ τὸ τοιόνδε· ἄρα τούτοις δεῖ προσπαλαίειν, οἷς  
βέλτιον, ἢ οὔ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

108   ζΩ. Ἄρα καὶ τοσαῦτα ὅσα ἄμεινον;

ΑΛΚ. Τοσαῦτα.

ζΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ τόθ' ὅτ' ἄμεινον;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ζΩ. Ἄλλὰ μὴν καὶ ἄδοντα δεῖ κιθαρίζειν ποτὲ  
πρὸς τὴν ᾠδὴν καὶ βαίνειν;

<sup>1</sup> ἂν add. Burnet.



## ALCIBIADES I

soc. Well, on what sort of affairs of their own do you mean that they will be deliberating ?

ALC. On war, Socrates, or on peace, or on any other of the state's affairs.

soc. Do you mean that they will be deliberating with whom they ought to make peace, and on whom they ought to make war, and in what manner ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And on whom it is better to do so, ought they not ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And at such time as it is better ?

ALC. Certainly.

soc. And for so long as they had better ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Now if the Athenians should deliberate with whom they should wrestle close, and with whom only at arm's length, and in what manner, would you or the wrestling-master be the better adviser ?

ALC. The wrestling-master, I presume.

soc. And can you tell me what the wrestling-master would have in view when he advised as to the persons with whom they ought or ought not to wrestle close, and when and in what manner ? What I mean is something like this : ought they not to wrestle close with those with whom it is better to do so ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And so far as is better, too ?

ALC. So far.

soc. And at such time also as is better ?

ALC. Certainly.

soc. But again, when one sings, one has sometimes to accompany the song with harping and stepping ?

## PLATO

ΑΛΚ. Δεῖ γάρ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τόθ' ὁπότε βέλτιον;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Καὶ τοσαῦτα ὅσα βέλτιον;

ΑΛΚ. Φημί.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; ἐπειδὴ βέλτιον μὲν ὠνόμαζες ἐπ'  
 Β ἀμφοτέροις, τῷ τε κιθαρίζειν πρὸς τὴν ᾠδὴν καὶ  
 τῷ προσπαλαίειν, τί καλεῖς τὸ ἐν τῷ κιθαρίζειν  
 βέλτιον, ὥσπερ ἐγὼ τὸ ἐν τῷ παλαίειν καλῶ  
 γυμναστικόν; σὺ δ' ἐκείνο τί καλεῖς;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἐννοῶ.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ πειρῶ ἐμὲ μιμείσθαι. ἐγὼ γάρ που  
 ἀπεκρινάμην τὸ διὰ παντὸς ὀρθῶς ἔχον, ὀρθῶς δὲ  
 δήπου ἔχει τὸ κατὰ τὴν τέχνην γιγνόμενον· ἢ οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἡ δὲ τέχνη οὐ γυμναστικὴ ἦν;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δ' οὐ;

ΣΩ. Ἐγὼ δ' εἶπον τὸ ἐν τῷ παλαίειν βέλτιον  
 γυμναστικόν.

ΑΛΚ. Εἶπες γάρ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καλῶς;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ἴθι δὴ καὶ σύ—πρέποι γὰρ ἂν που καὶ σοὶ  
 τὸ καλῶς διαλέγεσθαι—εἶπέ πρῶτον, τίς ἡ τέχνη  
 ἧς τὸ κιθαρίζειν καὶ τὸ ἄδειν καὶ τὸ ἐμβαίνειν  
 ὀρθῶς; συνάπασα τίς καλεῖται; οὐπω δύνασαι  
 εἰπεῖν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ὦδε πειρῶ· τίνες αἱ θεαὶ ὧν ἡ τέχνη;

<sup>1</sup> Socrates means by "better" or "the better way" the general method of attaining excellence in any art.

<sup>2</sup> Socrates here repeats καλῶς (which means "handsomely")

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Yes, one has.

soc. And at such time as is better ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And so far as is better ?

ALC. I agree.

soc. Well now, since you applied the term "better" to the two cases of harping for accompaniment of a song and close wrestling, what do you call the "better" in the case of harping, to correspond with what in the case of wrestling I call gymnastic ? What do you call the other ?

ALC. I do not understand.

soc. Well, try to copy me : for my answer gave you, I think, what is correct in every instance ; and that is correct, I presume, which proceeds by rule of the art, is it not ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And was not the art here gymnastic ?

ALC. To be sure.

soc. And I said that the better<sup>1</sup> in the case of wrestling was gymnastic.

ALC. You did.

soc. And I was quite fair ?

ALC. I think so.

soc. Come then, in your turn—for it would befit you also, I fancy, to argue *fairly*<sup>2</sup>—tell me, first, what is the art which includes harping and singing and treading the measure correctly ? What is it called as a whole ? You cannot yet tell me ?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Well, try another way : who are the goddesses that foster the art ?

as well as "correctly") in allusion to Alcibiades' good looks.  
*Cf.* 113 B.

PLATO

ΑΛΚ. Τὰς Μούσας, ὦ Σώκρατες, λέγεις;

Δ ΣΩ. Ἐγωγε. ὄρα δὴ· τίνα ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἐπωνυμίαν ἢ τέχνην ἔχει;

ΑΛΚ. Μουσικὴν μοι δοκεῖς λέγειν.

ΣΩ. Λέγω γάρ. τί οὖν τὸ κατὰ ταύτην ὀρθῶς γιγνόμενον ἐστίν; ὥσπερ ἐκεῖ ἐγώ σοι τὸ κατὰ τὴν τέχνην ἔλεγον ὀρθῶς, τὴν γυμναστικὴν, καὶ σὺ δὴ οὖν οὕτως ἐνταῦθα τί φήσ; πῶς γίνεσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Μουσικῶς μοι δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Εὖ λέγεις. ἴθι δὴ, καὶ τὸ ἐν τῷ πολεμεῖν βέλτιον καὶ τὸ ἐν τῷ εἰρήνην ἄγειν, τοῦτο τὸ  
Ε βέλτιον τί ὀνομάζεις; ὥσπερ ἐκεῖ [ἐφ' ἐκάστῳ]<sup>1</sup> ἔλεγες τὸ ἄμεινον, ὅτι μουσικώτερον, καὶ ἐπὶ τῷ ἐτέρῳ, ὅτι γυμναστικώτερον· πειρῶ δὴ καὶ ἐνταῦθα λέγειν τὸ βέλτιον.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' οὐ πάνυ ἔχω.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ μέντοι αἰσχρὸν γε, εἰ μὲν τίς σε λέγοντα καὶ συμβουλευόντα περὶ σιτίων, ὅτι βέλτιον τόδε τοῦδε καὶ νῦν καὶ τοσοῦτον, ἔπειτα ἐρωτήσῃ, τί τὸ ἄμεινον λέγεις, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδῃ; περὶ μὲν τούτων ἔχειν εἰπεῖν ὅτι τὸ ὑγιεινότερον, καίτοι  
109 ἐπιστήμων εἶναι καὶ συμβουλεύσεις ἀνιστάμενος ὡς εἰδώς, τούτου δέ, ὡς ἔοικας, πέρι ἐρωτηθεὶς ἐὰν μὴ ἔχῃς εἰπεῖν, οὐκ αἰσχύνῃ; ἢ οὐκ αἰσχρὸν φαίνεται;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

<sup>1</sup> ἐφ' ἐκάστῳ secl. Schanz.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. The Muses, you mean, Socrates ?

soc. I do. Now, just think, and say by what name the art is called after them.

ALC. Music,<sup>1</sup> I suppose you mean.

soc. Yes, I do. And what is that which proceeds correctly by its rule ? As in the other case I was correct in mentioning to you gymnastic as that which goes by the art, so I ask you, accordingly, what you say in this case. What manner of proceeding is required ?

ALC. A musical one, I suppose.

soc. You are right. Come then, what is it that you term "better," in respect of what is better in waging war and being at peace ? Just as in our other instances you said that the "better" implied the more musical and again, in the parallel case, the more gymnastical, try now if you can tell me what is the "better" in this case.

ALC. But I am quite unable.

soc. But surely that is disgraceful ; for if you should speak to somebody as his adviser on food, and say that one sort was better than another, at this time and in this quantity, and he then asked you—What do you mean by the "better," Alcibiades ?—in a matter like that you could tell him you meant the more wholesome, although you do not set up to be a physician ; yet in a case where you set up to have knowledge and are ready to stand up and advise as though you knew, are you not ashamed to be unable, as appears, to answer a question upon it ? Does it not seem disgraceful ?

ALC. Very.

<sup>1</sup> " Music " with the Greeks included poetry and dancing as well as our " music."

## PLATO

ΣΩ. Σκόπει δὴ καὶ προθυμοῦ εἰπεῖν, πρὸς τί τείνει τὸ ἐν τῷ εἰρήνην τε ἄγειν ἄμεινον καὶ τὸ ἐν τῷ πολεμεῖν οἷς δεῖ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ σκοπῶν οὐ δύναμαι ἐννοῆσαι.

ΣΩ. Οὐδ' οἶσθα, ἐπειδὴν πόλεμον ποιῶμεθα, ὃ τι ἐγκαλοῦντες ἀλλήλοις πάθημα ἐρχόμεθα εἰς τὸ Β πολεμεῖν, καὶ ὃ τι αὐτὸ ὀνομάζοντες ἐρχόμεθα;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε, ὅτι γε ἐξαπατῶμενοί τι ἢ βιαζόμενοι ἢ ἀποστερούμενοι.

ΣΩ. Ἐχε· πῶς ἕκαστα τούτων πάσχοντες; πειρῶ εἰπεῖν, τί διαφέρει τὸ ᾧδε ἢ ᾧδε.

ΑΛΚ. Ἡ τὸ ᾧδε λέγεις, ᾧ Σώκρατες, τὸ δικαίως ἢ τὸ ἀδίκως;

ΣΩ. Αὐτὸ τοῦτο.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ μὴν τοῦτό γε διαφέρει ὅλον τε καὶ πᾶν.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; Ἀθηναίοις σὺ πρὸς ποτέρους συμβουλεύσεις πολεμεῖν, τοὺς ἀδικοῦντας ἢ τοὺς τὰ δίκαια πράττοντας;

ΑΛΚ. Δεινὸν τοῦτό γε ἐρωτᾶς· εἰ γὰρ καὶ διανοεῖται τις ὡς δεῖ πρὸς τοὺς τὰ δίκαια πράττοντας πολεμεῖν, οὐκ ἂν ὁμολογήσειέ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐ γὰρ νόμιμον τοῦθ', ὡς ἔοικεν.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα· οὐδέ γε καλὸν δοκεῖ εἶναι.

ΣΩ. Πρὸς ταῦτ' ἄρα καὶ σὺ [τὸ δίκαιον]<sup>1</sup> τοὺς λόγους ποιήσῃ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλο τι οὖν, ὃ νῦν δὴ ἐγὼ ἡρώτων βέλτιον πρὸς τὸ πολεμεῖν καὶ μὴ, καὶ οἷς δεῖ καὶ οἷς μὴ,

<sup>1</sup> τὸ δίκαιον secl. Nürnberger.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. Then consider and do your best to tell me the connexion of "better" in being at peace or at war with those to whom we ought to be so disposed.

ALC. Well, I am considering, but I fail to perceive it.

soc. But you must know what treatment it is that we allege against each other when we enter upon a war, and what name we give it when we do so?

ALC. I do: we say we are victims of deceit or violence or spoliation.

soc. Enough: how do we suffer each of these things? Try and tell me what difference there is between one way and another.

ALC. Do you mean by that, Socrates, whether it is in a just way or an unjust way?

soc. Precisely.

ALC. Why, there you have all the difference in the world.

soc. Well then, on which sort are you going to advise the Athenians to make war—those who are acting unjustly, or those who are doing what is just?

ALC. That is a hard question: for even if someone decides that he must go to war with those who are doing what is just, he would not admit that they were doing so.

soc. For that would not be lawful, I suppose?

ALC. No, indeed; nor is it considered honourable either.

soc. So you too will appeal to these things in making your speeches?

ALC. Necessarily.

soc. Then must not that "better" about which I was asking in reference to making or not making war, on those on whom we ought to or not, and

καὶ ὁπότε καὶ μή, τὸ δικαιότερον τυγχάνει οὖν;  
ἢ οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται γε.

D ΣΩ. Πῶς οὖν, ὦ φίλε Ἀλκιβιάδη; πότερον  
σαυτὸν λέληθας ὅτι οὐκ ἐπίστασαι τοῦτο, ἢ ἐμέ  
ἔλαθες μανθάνων καὶ φοιτῶν εἰς διδασκάλου, ὅς σε  
ἐδίδασκε διαγιγνώσκειν τὸ δικαιότερόν τε καὶ  
ἀδικώτερον; καὶ τίς ἐστὶν οὗτος; φράσον καὶ  
ἐμοί, ἵνα αὐτῷ φοιτητὴν προξενήσῃς καὶ ἐμέ.

ΑΛΚ. Σκώπτεις, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Οὐ μὰ τὸν Φίλιον τὸν ἐμόν τε καὶ σόν, ὃν ἐγὼ  
E ἤκιστ' ἂν ἐπιορκήσαιμι· ἀλλ' εἴπερ ἔχεις, εἶπέ τίς  
ἐστίν.

ΑΛΚ. Τί δ', εἰ μὴ ἔχω; οὐκ ἂν οἶε με ἄλλως  
εἰδέναί περὶ τῶν δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων;

ΣΩ. Ναί, εἴ γε εὖροισ.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' οὐκ ἂν εὐρεῖν με ἠγῆ;

ΣΩ. Καὶ μάλα γε, εἰ ζητήσῃς.

ΑΛΚ. Εἶτα ζητῆσαι οὐκ ἂν οἶε με;

ΣΩ. Ἐγωγε, εἰ οἴηθείης γε μὴ εἰδέναί.

ΑΛΚ. Εἶτα οὐκ ἦν ὅτ' εἶχον οὕτως;

ΣΩ. Καλῶς λέγεις. ἔχεις οὖν εἰπεῖν τοῦτον τὸν  
110 χρόνον, ὅτε οὐκ ᾔου εἰδέναί τὰ δίκαια καὶ τὰ  
ἀδίκαια; φέρε, πέρυσιν ἐζήτηίς τε καὶ οὐκ ᾔου  
εἰδέναί; ἢ ᾔου; καὶ τάληθῆ ἀποκρίνου, ἵνα μὴ  
μάτην οἱ διάλογοι γίνωνται.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' ᾔμην εἰδέναί.

ΣΩ. Τρίτον δὲ ἔτος καὶ τέταρτον καὶ πέμπτον  
οὐχ οὕτως;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. above, 106 E.



## ALCIBIADES I

when we ought to or not, be simply and solely the juster ?

ALC. Apparently it is.

soc. How now, friend Alcibiades ? Have you overlooked your own ignorance of this matter, or have I overlooked<sup>1</sup> your learning it and taking lessons of a master who taught you to distinguish the more just and the more unjust ? And who is he ? Inform me in my turn, in order that you may introduce me to him as another pupil.

ALC. You are joking, Socrates.

soc. No, I swear by our common God of Friendship, whose name I would by no means take in vain. Come, if you can, tell me who the man is.

ALC. But what if I cannot ? Do you think I could not know about what is just and unjust in any other way ?

soc. Yes, you might, supposing you discovered it.

ALC. But do you not think I might discover it ?

soc. Yes, quite so, if you inquired.

ALC. And do you not think I might inquire ?

soc. I do, if you thought you did not know.

ALC. And was there not a time when I held that view ?

soc. Well spoken. Then can you tell me at what time it was that you thought you did not know what is just and unjust ? Pray, was it a year ago that you were inquiring, and thought you did not know ? Or did you think you knew ? Please answer truly, that our debates may not be futile.

ALC. Well, I thought I knew.

soc. And two years, and three years, and four years back, were you not of the same mind ?

ALC. I was.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὴν τό γε πρὸ τούτου παῖς ἦσθα.  
ἦ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τότε μὲν τοίνυν εὖ οἶδα ὅτι ᾧ σου εἰδέναί.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς εὖ οἶσθα;

Β ΣΩ. Πολλάκις σου ἐν διδασκάλων ἤκουον παιδὸς ὄντος καὶ ἄλλοθι, καὶ ὁπότε ἀστραγαλίζοις ἢ ἄλλην τινα παιδιὰν παίζοις, οὐχ ὡς ἀποροῦντος περὶ τῶν δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων, ἀλλὰ μάλα μέγα καὶ θαρραλέως λέγοντος περὶ ὅτου τύχοις τῶν παίδων, ὡς πονηρός τε καὶ ἀδικος εἶη καὶ ὡς ἀδικοῖ· ἢ οὐκ ἀληθῆ λέγω;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀλλὰ τί ἔμελλον ποιεῖν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ὁπότε τίς με ἀδικοῖ;

ΣΩ. Σὺ δ' εἰ τύχοις ἀγνοῶν εἶτε ἀδικοῖο εἶτε μὴ τότε, λέγεις, τί σε χρή ποιεῖν;

Γ ΑΛΚ. Μὰ Δί' ἀλλ' οὐκ ἠγνόουν ἔγωγε, ἀλλὰ σαφῶς ἐγίνωσκον ὅτι ἠδικούμην.

ΣΩ. Ὡς οὖν ἀρεῖς ἐπίστασθαι καὶ παῖς ὢν, ὡς ἔοικε, τὰ δίκαια καὶ τὰ ἀδिका.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε· καὶ ἠπιστάμην γε.

ΣΩ. Ἐν ποίῳ χρόνῳ ἐξευρών; οὐ γὰρ δήπου ἐν ᾧ γε ᾧ σου εἰδέναί.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Πότε οὖν ἀγνοεῖν ἠγοῦ; σκόπει· οὐ γὰρ εὐρήσεις τοῦτον τὸν χρόνον.

ΑΛΚ. Μὰ τὸν Δί', ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐκ οὐκ ἔχω γ' εἰπεῖν.

Δ ΣΩ. Εὐρών μὲν ἄρα οὐκ οἶσθα αὐτά.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ πάνυ φαίνομαι.

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὴν ἄρτι γε οὐδὲ μαθὼν ἔφησθα εἰδέ-

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. But, you see, before that time you were a child, were you not ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. So I know well enough that then you thought you knew.

ALC. How do you know it so well ?

soc. Many a time I heard you, when as a child you were dicing or playing some other game at your teacher's or elsewhere, instead of showing hesitation about what was just and unjust, speak in very loud and confident tones about one or other of your play-mates, saying he was a rascal and a cheat who played unfairly. Is not this a true account ?

ALC. But what was I to do, Socrates, when somebody cheated me ?

soc. Yet if you were ignorant then whether you were being unfairly treated or not, how can you ask —“What are you to do ?”

ALC. Well, but on my word, I was not ignorant : no, I clearly understood that I was being wronged.

soc. So you thought you knew, even as a child, it seems, what was just and unjust.

ALC. I did ; and I knew too.

soc. At what sort of time did you discover it ? For surely it was not while you thought you knew.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Then when did you think you were ignorant ? Consider ; I believe you will fail to find such a time.

ALC. Upon my word, Socrates, I really cannot say.

soc. So you do not know it by discovery.

ALC. Not at all, apparently.

soc. But you said just now that you did not know it by learning either ; and if you neither discovered

ναι· εἰ δὲ μήθ' ἠῦρες μήτε ἔμαθες, πῶς οἶσθα καὶ πόθεν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' ἴσως τοῦτό σοι οὐκ ὀρθῶς ἀπεκρινάμην, τὸ φάναι εἰδέναι αὐτὸς ἐξευρών.

ΣΩ. Τὸ δὲ πῶς εἶχεν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἔμαθον, οἶμαι, καὶ ἐγὼ ὥσπερ καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι.

ΣΩ. Πάλιν εἰς τὸν αὐτὸν ἤκομεν λόγον. παρὰ τοῦ; φράζε καμοί.

Ε ΑΛΚ. Παρὰ τῶν πολλῶν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ εἰς σπουδαίους γε διδασκάλους καταφεύγεις εἰς τοὺς πολλοὺς ἀναφέρων.

ΑΛΚ. Τί δέ; οὐχ ἱκανοὶ διδάξαι οὗτοι;

ΣΩ. Οὐκουν τὰ πεπτευτικά γε καὶ τὰ μή· καίτοι φαυλότερα αὐτὰ οἶμαι τῶν δικαίων εἶναι. τί δέ; σὺ οὐχ οὕτως οἶει;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Εἶτα τὰ μὲν φαυλότερα οὐχ οἶοί τε διδάσκειν, τὰ δὲ σπουδαιότερα;

ΑΛΚ. Οἶμαι ἔγωγε· ἄλλα γοῦν πολλὰ οἶοί τ' εἰσὶ διδάσκειν σπουδαιότερα τοῦ πεπτεύειν.

ΣΩ. Ποῖα ταῦτα;

111 ΑΛΚ. Οἶον καὶ τὸ ἐλληνίζειν παρὰ τούτων ἔγωγε ἔμαθον, καὶ οὐκ ἂν ἔχοιμι εἰπεῖν ἔμαντοῦ διδάσκαλον, ἀλλ' εἰς τοὺς αὐτοὺς ἀναφέρω, οὓς σὺ φῆς οὐ σπουδαίους εἶναι διδασκάλους.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ', ὦ γενναῖε, τούτου μὲν ἀγαθοὶ διδάσκαλοι οἱ πολλοί, καὶ δικαίως ἐπαινοῖντ' ἂν αὐτῶν εἰς διδασκαλίαν.

ΑΛΚ. Τί δή;

ΣΩ. Ὅτι ἔχουσι περὶ αὐτὰ ἅ χρῆ τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς διδασκάλους ἔχειν.

## ALCIBIADES I

nor learnt it, how do you come to know it, and whence ?

ALC. Well, perhaps that answer I gave you was not correct, that I knew it by my own discovery.

soc. Then how was it done ?

ALC. I learnt it, I suppose, in the same way as everyone else.

soc. Back we come to the same argument. From whom ? Please tell me.

ALC. From the many.

soc. They are no very serious teachers with whom you take refuge, if you ascribe it to the many !

ALC. Why, are they not competent to teach ?

soc. Not how to play, or not to play, draughts ; and yet that, I imagine, is a slight matter compared with justice. What ? Do you not think so ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then if they are unable to teach the slighter, can they teach the more serious matter ?

ALC. I think so : at any rate, there are many other things that they are able to teach, more serious than draughts.

soc. What sort of things ?

ALC. For instance, it was from them that I learnt to speak Greek, and I could not say who was my teacher, but can only ascribe it to the same people who, you say, are not serious teachers.

soc. Ah, gallant sir, the many may be good teachers of that, and they can justly be praised for their teaching of such subjects.

ALC. And why ?

soc. Because in those subjects they have the equipment proper to good teachers.

PLATO

ΑΛΚ. Τί τοῦτο λέγεις;

ΣΩ. Οὐκ οἶσθ' ὅτι χρή τοὺς μέλλοντας διδάσκειν ὅτιοῦν αὐτοὺς πρῶτον εἰδέναί; ἢ οὔ;

B ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὔ;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τοὺς εἰδότας ὁμολογεῖν τε ἀλλήλοις καὶ μὴ διαφέρεσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐν οἷς δ' ἂν διαφέρωνται, ταῦτα φήσεις εἰδέναί αὐτούς;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Τούτων οὖν διδάσκαλοι πῶς ἂν εἶεν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐδαμῶς.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; δοκοῦσί σοι διαφέρεσθαι οἱ πολλοὶ ποῖόν ἐστι λίθος ἢ ξύλον; καὶ ἔάν τινα ἐρωτᾷς, ἄρ' οὐ τὰ αὐτὰ ὁμολογοῦσι, καὶ ἐπὶ ταῦτα ὀρμῶσιν, ὅταν βούλωνται λαβεῖν λίθον ἢ ξύλον; ὡσαύτως καὶ πάνθ' ὅσα τοιαῦτα· σχεδὸν γάρ τι μανθάνω τὸ ἐλληνίζειν ἐπίστασθαι ὅτι τοῦτο λέγεις· ἢ οὔ;

C

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εἰς μὲν ταῦθ', ὥσπερ εἶπομεν, ἀλλήλοις τε ὁμολογοῦσι καὶ αὐτοὶ ἑαυτοῖς ἰδίᾳ, καὶ δημοσίᾳ αἱ πόλεις πρὸς ἀλλήλας οὐκ ἀμφισβητοῦσιν αἱ μὲν ταῦθ' αἱ δ' ἄλλα φάσκουσαι;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ γάρ.

D ΣΩ. Εἰκότως ἂν ἄρα τούτων γε καὶ διδάσκαλοι εἶεν ἀγαθοί.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εἰ μὲν βουλοίμεθα ποιῆσαί τινα περὶ αὐτῶν εἰδέναί, ὀρθῶς ἂν αὐτὸν πέμποιμεν εἰς διδασκαλίαν τούτων τῶν πολλῶν;

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. What do you mean by that ?

soc. You know that those who are going to teach anything should first know it themselves, do you not ?

ALC. Of course.

soc. And that those who know should agree with each other and not differ ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. But if they differ upon anything, will you say that they know it ?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Then how can they be teachers of it ?

ALC. By no means.

soc. Well now, do you find that the many differ about the nature of stone or wood ? If you ask one of them, do they not agree on the same answer, and make for the same things when they want to get a piece of stone or wood ? It is just the same, too, with everything of the sort : for I am pretty nearly right in understanding you to mean just this by knowing how to speak Greek, am I not ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And on these matters, as we stated, they not only agree with each other and with themselves in private, but states also use in public the same terms about them to each other, without any dispute ?

ALC. They do.

soc. Then naturally they will be good teachers of these matters.

ALC. Yes.

soc. And if we should wish to provide anyone with knowledge of them, we should be right in sending him to be taught by "the many" that you speak of ?

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' εἰ βουλευθεῖμεν εἰδέναί, μὴ μόνον ποῖοι ἄνθρωποι εἰσιν ἢ ποῖοι ἵπποι, ἀλλὰ καὶ τίνες αὐτῶν δρομικοί τε καὶ μή, ἅρ' ἔτι οἱ πολλοὶ τοῦτο ἱκανοὶ διδάξαι;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἰκανὸν δέ σοι τεκμήριον, ὅτι οὐκ ἐπίστανται  
 Ε οὐδὲ κρήγυοι διδάσκαλοι εἰσι τούτων, ἐπειδὴ οὐδὲν ὁμολογοῦσιν ἑαυτοῖς περὶ αὐτῶν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' εἰ βουλευθείημεν εἰδέναί, μὴ μόνον ποῖοι ἄνθρωποι εἰσιν, ἀλλ' ὅποιοι ὑγιεινοὶ ἢ νοσώδεις, ἅρα ἱκανοὶ ἂν ἡμῖν ἦσαν διδάσκαλοι οἱ πολλοί;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἦν δ' ἂν σοι τεκμήριον ὅτι μοχθηροὶ εἰσι τούτων διδάσκαλοι, εἰ ἑώρας αὐτοὺς διαφερομένους;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε.

ΣΩ. Τί δὲ δῆ; νῦν περὶ τῶν δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων  
 112 ἀνθρώπων καὶ πραγμάτων οἱ πολλοὶ δοκοῦσί σοι ὁμολογεῖν αὐτοὶ ἑαυτοῖς ἢ ἀλλήλοις;

ΑΛΚ. Ἦκιστα νῆ Δί', ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; μάλιστα περὶ αὐτῶν διαφέρεσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Πολύ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ οἶομαί γε πώποτε σε ἰδεῖν οὐδ' ἀκοῦσαι σφόδρα οὕτω διαφερομένους ἀνθρώπους περὶ ὑγιεινῶν καὶ μή, ὥστε διὰ ταῦτα μάχεσθαι τε καὶ ἀποκτινύναι ἀλλήλους.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ περὶ τῶν δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων ἔγωγε  
 Β οἶδ' ὅτι, καὶ εἰ μὴ ἑώρακας, ἀκήκοας γοῦν ἄλλων



## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Certainly.

soc. But what if we wished to know not only what men were like or what horses were like, but which of them were good runners or not? Would the many still suffice to teach us this?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. And you have ample proof that they do not know this, and are not proficient teachers of it, in their not agreeing about it at all with themselves?

ALC. I have.

soc. And what if we wished to know not only what men were like, but what healthy or diseased men were like? Would the many suffice to teach us?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. And you would have proof of their being bad teachers of that, if you saw them differing about it?

ALC. I should.

soc. Well then, do you now find that the many agree with themselves or each other about just and unjust men or things?

ALC. Far from it, on my word, Socrates.

soc. In fact, they differ most especially on these points?

ALC. Very much so.

soc. And I suppose you never yet saw or heard of people differing so sharply on questions of health or the opposite as to fight and kill one another in battle because of them.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. But on questions of justice or injustice I am sure you have; and if you have not seen them, at any rate you have heard of them from many people,

τε πολλῶν καὶ Ὀμήρου. καὶ Ὀδυσσεΐας γὰρ καὶ Ἰλιάδος ἀκήκοας.

ΑΛΚ. Πάντως δήπου, ὦ Σώκратες.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ταῦτα ποιήματά ἐστι περὶ διαφορᾶς δικαίων τε καὶ ἀδίκων;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Καὶ αἱ μάχαι γε καὶ οἱ θάνατοι διὰ ταύτην τὴν διαφορὰν τοῖς τε Ἀχαιοῖς καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις Τρωσὶν ἐγένοντο, καὶ τοῖς μνηστῆρσι τοῖς τῆς Πηνελόπης καὶ τῷ Ὀδυσσεῖ.

C ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Οἶμαι δὲ καὶ τοῖς ἐν Τανάγρα Ἀθηναίων τε καὶ Λακεδαιμονίων καὶ Βοιωτῶν ἀποθανοῦσι, καὶ τοῖς ὕστερον ἐν Κορωνείᾳ, ἐν οἷς καὶ ὁ σὸς πατήρ [Κλεινίας]<sup>1</sup> ἐτελεύτησεν, οὐδὲ περὶ ἐνὸς ἄλλου ἢ διαφορὰ ἢ περὶ τοῦ δικαίου καὶ ἀδίκου τοὺς θανάτους καὶ τὰς μάχας πεποίηκεν. ἦ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

D οὕτω σφόδρα διαφέρονται, ὥστε ἀμφισβητοῦντες ἀλλήλοις τὰ ἔσχατα σφᾶς αὐτοὺς ἐργάζονται;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ φαίνεται γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εἰς τοὺς τοιούτους διδασκάλους ἀναφέρεις, οὓς ὁμολογεῖς αὐτὸς μὴ εἰδέναι;

ΑΛΚ. Ἔοικα.

ΣΩ. Πῶς οὖν εἰκός σε εἰδέναι τὰ δίκαια καὶ τὰ ἀδिका, περὶ ὧν οὕτω πλανᾷ καὶ οὔτε μαθῶν φαίνῃ παρ' οὐδενὸς οὔτε αὐτὸς ἐξευρών;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐκ μὲν ὧν σὺ λέγεις οὐκ εἰκός.

<sup>1</sup> Κλεινίας om. Proclus.

## ALCIBIADES I

especially Homer. For you have heard<sup>1</sup> the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*?

ALC. I certainly have, I suppose, Socrates.

soc. And these poems are about a difference of just and unjust?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And from this difference arose the fights and deaths of the Achaeans, and of the Trojans as well, and of the suitors of Penelope in their strife with Odysseus.

ALC. That is true.

soc. And I imagine that when the Athenians and Spartans and Boeotians lost their men at Tanagra,<sup>2</sup> and later at Coronea,<sup>3</sup> among whom your own father perished, the difference that caused their deaths and fights was solely on a question of just and unjust, was it not?

ALC. That is true.

soc. Then are we to say that these people understand those questions, on which they differ so sharply that they are led by their mutual disputes to take these extreme measures against each other?

ALC. Apparently not.

soc. And you refer me to teachers of that sort, whom you admit yourself to be without knowledge?

ALC. It seems I do.

soc. Then how is it likely that you should know what is just and unjust, when you are so bewildered about these matters and are shown to have neither learnt them from anyone nor discovered them for yourself?

ALC. By what you say, it is not likely.

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* at the recitations of rhapsodes; *cf.* the *Ion* of Plato.

<sup>2</sup> 457 B.C.

<sup>3</sup> 447 B.C.

PLATO

Ε ΣΩ. 'Ορᾶς αὐ τοῦθ' ὡς οὐ καλῶς εἶπες, ὦ Ἄλκιβιάδῃ;

ΑΛΚ. Τὸ ποῖον;

ΣΩ. "Ὅτι ἐμὲ φῆς ταῦτα λέγειν.

ΑΛΚ. Τί δέ; οὐ σὺ λέγεις, ὡς ἐγὼ οὐκ ἐπίσταμαι περὶ τῶν δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων;

ΣΩ. Οὐ μέντοι.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' ἐγώ;

ΣΩ. Ναί.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δῆ;

ΣΩ. Ὡςδε εἴση. ἐάν σε ἔρωμαι τὸ ἐν καὶ τὰ δύο, πότερα πλείω ἐστί, φήσεις ὅτι τὰ δύο;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Πόσω;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐνί.

ΣΩ. Πότερος οὖν ἡμῶν ὁ λέγων, ὅτι τὰ δύο τοῦ ἐνὸς ἐνὶ πλείω;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἐγὼ μὲν ἡρώτων, σὺ δὲ ἀπεκρίνου;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

113 ΣΩ. Περὶ δὴ τούτων μῶν ἐγὼ φαίνομαι λέγων ὁ ἐρωτῶν, ἢ σὺ ὁ ἀποκρινόμενος;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' ἂν ἐγὼ μὲν ἔρωμαι,<sup>1</sup> ποῖα γράμματα Σωκράτους, σὺ δὲ εἴπῃς, πότερος ὁ λέγων;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ.

ΣΩ. Ἴθι δῆ, ἐνὶ λόγῳ εἶπέ· ὅταν ἐρώτησίς τε καὶ ἀπόκρισις γίγνηται, πότερος ὁ λέγων, ὁ ἐρωτῶν ἢ ὁ ἀποκρινόμενος;

ΑΛΚ. Ὁ ἀποκρινόμενος, ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ, ὦ Σώκρατες.

<sup>1</sup> ἔρωμαι Olympiodorus: ἐρῶ καὶ mss.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. There again, Alcibiades, do you see how unfairly you speak ?

ALC. In what ?

soc. In stating that I say so.

ALC. Why, do you not say that I do not know about the just and unjust ?

soc. Not at all.

ALC. Well, do *I* say it ?

soc. Yes.

ALC. How, pray ?

soc. I will show you, in the following way. If I ask you which is the greater number, one or two, you will answer "two" ?

ALC. Yes, I shall.

soc. How much greater ?

ALC. By one.

soc. Then which of us says that two are one more than one ?

ALC. I.

soc. And I was asking, and you were answering ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then is it I, the questioner, or you the answerer, that are found to be speaking about these things ?

ALC. I.

soc. And what if I ask what are the letters in "Socrates," and you tell me ? Which will be the speaker ?

ALC. I.

soc. Come then, tell me, as a principle, when we have question and answer, which is the speaker—the questioner, or the answerer ?

ALC. The answerer, I should say, Socrates.

B    ζη. Οὐκοῦν ἄρτι διὰ παντὸς τοῦ λόγου ἐγὼ μὲν  
ἢ ὁ ἐρωτῶν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ζη. Σὺ δὲ ὁ ἀποκρινόμενος;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ζη. Τί οὖν; τὰ λεχθέντα πότερος ἡμῶν εἶρηκεν;

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνομαι μὲν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἐκ τῶν ὠμο-  
λογημένων ἐγώ.

ζη. Οὐκοῦν ἐλέχθη περὶ δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων ὅτι  
Ἄλκιβιάδης ὁ καλὸς ὁ Κλεινίου οὐκ ἐπίσταιτο,  
οἷοιτο δέ, καὶ μέλλοι εἰς ἐκκλησίαν ἐλθὼν συμ-  
βουλεύσειν Ἀθηναίοις περὶ ὧν οὐδὲν οἶδεν; οὐ  
ταῦτ' ἦν;

C    ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ζη. Τὸ τοῦ Εὐριπίδου ἄρα συμβαίνει, ὦ Ἄλκι-  
βιάδη· σοῦ τάδε κινδυνεύεις, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐμοῦ ἀκηκοέ-  
ναι, οὐδ' ἐγὼ εἶμι ὁ ταῦτα λέγων, ἀλλὰ σύ, ἐμὲ δὲ  
αἰτιᾶ μάτην. καὶ μέντοι καὶ εὖ λέγεις. μανικὸν  
γὰρ ἐν νῶ ἔχεις ἐπιχείρημα ἐπιχειρεῖν, ὦ βέλτιστε,  
διδάσκειν ἃ οὐκ οἶσθα, ἀμελήσας μανθάνειν.

D    ΑΛΚ. Οἶμαι μὲν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ὀλιγάκις Ἀθηναί-  
ους βουλεύεσθαι καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους Ἕλληνας, πότερα  
δικαιότερα ἢ ἀδικώτερα· τὰ μὲν γὰρ τοιαῦτα  
ἡγοῦνται δῆλα εἶναι· ἐάσαντες οὖν περὶ αὐτῶν  
σκοποῦσιν ὁπότερα συνοίσει πράξασιν. οὐ γὰρ  
ταῦτά, οἶμαι, ἐστὶ τά τε δίκαια καὶ τὰ συμφέροντα,  
ἀλλὰ πολλοῖς δὴ ἐλυσιτέλησεν ἀδικήσασι μεγάλα  
ἀδικήματα, καὶ ἑτέροις γε, οἶμαι, δίκαια ἐργασα-  
μένοις οὐ συνήνεγκεν.

ζη. Τί οὖν; εἰ ὅτι μάλιστα ἕτερα μὲν τὰ δίκαια

<sup>1</sup> Hippolytus, 352—σοῦ τάδ', οὐκ ἐμοῦ κλύεις.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And throughout the argument so far, I was the questioner ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And you the answerer ?

ALC. Quite so.

soc. Well then, which of us has spoken what has been said ?

ALC. Apparently, Socrates, from what we have admitted, it was I.

soc. And it was said that Alcibiades, the fair son of Cleinias, did not know about just and unjust, but thought he did, and intended to go to the Assembly as adviser to the Athenians on what he knows nothing about ; is not that so ?

ALC. Apparently.

soc. Then, to quote Euripides,<sup>1</sup> the result is, Alcibiades, that you may be said to have " heard it from yourself, not me," and it is not I who say it, but you, and you tax me with it in vain. And indeed what you say is quite true. For it is a mad scheme this, that you meditate, my excellent friend—of teaching things that you do not know, since you have taken no care to learn them.

ALC. I think, Socrates, that the Athenians and the rest of the Greeks rarely deliberate as to which is the more just or unjust course : for they regard questions of this sort as obvious ; and so they pass them over and consider which course will prove more expedient in the result. For the just and the expedient, I take it, are not the same, but many people have profited by great wrongs that they have committed, whilst others, I imagine, have had no advantage from doing what was right.

soc. What then ? Granting that the just and the

Ε τυγχάνει ὄντα, ἕτερα δὲ τὰ συμφέροντα, οὐ τί που αὐτὸν οἶει ταῦτα εἰδέναι ἃ συμφέρει τοῖς ἀνθρώποις, καὶ δι' ὅ τι;

ΑΛΚ. Τί γὰρ κωλύει, ὦ Σώκρατες; εἰ μὴ με αὐτὸν ἐρήσῃ παρ' ὅτου ἔμαθον ἢ ὅπως αὐτὸς ἠῦρον.

ΣΩ. Οἶον τοῦτο ποιεῖς· εἴ τι μὴ ὀρθῶς λέγεις, τυγχάνει δὲ δυνατόν ὃν ἀποδείξαι δι' οὐπὲρ καὶ τὸ πρότερον λόγου, οἶει δὴ καινὰ ἅττα δεῖν ἀκούειν ἀποδείξεις τε ἐτέρας, ὡς τῶν προτέρων οἶον σκευαρίων κατατετριμμένων, καὶ οὐκέτ' ἂν σὺ αὐτὰ ἀμπίσχοιο, εἰ μὴ τίς σοι τεκμήριον καθαρὸν  
 114 καὶ ἄχραντον οἴσει. ἐγὼ δὲ χαίρειν ἐάσας τὰς σὰς προδρομὰς τοῦ λόγου οὐδὲν ἤττον ἐρήσομαι, πόθεν μαθὼν αὐτὰ τὰ συμφέροντα ἐπίστασαι, καὶ ὅστις ἐστὶν ὁ διδάσκαλος, καὶ πάντ' ἐκεῖνα τὰ πρότερον ἐρωτῶ μᾶ ἐρωτήσῃ· ἀλλὰ γὰρ δῆλον ὡς εἰς ταῦτον ἤξεις καὶ οὐχ ἕξεις ἀποδείξαι οὐθ' ὡς ἐξευρῶν οἴσθα τὰ συμφέροντα οὐθ' ὡς μαθῶν. ἐπειδὴ δὲ τρυφᾶς καὶ οὐκέτ' ἂν ἠδέως τοῦ αὐτοῦ γεύσαιο λόγου, τοῦτον μὲν ἐῷ χαίρειν, εἴτε οἴσθα εἴτε μὴ  
 Β τὰ Ἀθηναίοις συμφέροντα· πότερον δὲ ταῦτά ἐστι δίκαιά τε καὶ συμφέροντα ἢ ἕτερα, τί οὐκ ἀπέδειξας; εἰ μὲν βούλει, ἐρωτῶν με ὥσπερ ἐγὼ σέ, εἰ δέ, καὶ αὐτὸς ἐπὶ σεαυτοῦ λόγῳ διεξέλθε.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' οὐκ οἶδα εἰ οἶός τ' ἂν εἶην, ὦ Σώκρατες, πρὸς σέ διελθεῖν.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ', ὦ ἄγαθέ, ἐμὲ ἐκκλησίαν νόμισον καὶ δῆμον· καὶ ἐκεῖ τοί σε δεήσει ἕνα ἕκαστον πείθειν. ἢ γάρ;



## ALCIBIADES I

expedient are in fact as different as they can be, you surely do not still suppose you know what is expedient for mankind, and why it is so ?

ALC. Well, what is the obstacle, Socrates,—unless you are going to ask me again from whom I learnt it, or how I discovered it for myself ?

SOC. What a way of going on ! If your answer is incorrect, and a previous argument can be used to prove it so, you claim to be told something new, and a different line of proof, as though the previous one were like a poor worn-out coat which you refuse to wear any longer ; you must be provided instead with something clean and unsoiled in the way of evidence. But I shall ignore your sallies in debate, and shall none the less ask you once more, where you learnt your knowledge of what is expedient, and who is your teacher, asking in one question all the things I asked before ; and now you will clearly find yourself in the same plight, and will be unable to prove that you know the expedient either through discovery or through learning. But as you are dainty, and would dislike a repeated taste of the same argument, I pass over this question of whether you know or do not know what is expedient for the Athenians : but why have you not made it clear whether the just and the expedient are the same or different ? If you like, question me as I did you, or if you prefer, argue out the matter in your own way.

ALC. But I am not sure I should be able, Socrates, to set it forth to you.

SOC. Well, my good sir, imagine I am the people in Assembly ; even there, you know, you will have to persuade each man singly, will you not ?

## PLATO

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τοῦ αὐτοῦ ἓνα τε οἶόν τε εἶναι κατὰ  
C μόνας πείθειν καὶ συμπόλλους περὶ ὧν ἂν εἰδῆ,  
ὥσπερ ὁ γραμματιστῆς ἓνα τέ που πείθει περὶ  
γραμμάτων καὶ πολλούς;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν οὐ καὶ περὶ ἀριθμοῦ ὁ αὐτὸς ἓνα τε  
καὶ πολλούς πείσει;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὗτος δ' ἔσται ὁ εἰδώς, ὁ ἀριθμητικός;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ σὺ ἄπερ καὶ πολλούς οἶός τε  
πείθειν εἶ, ταῦτα καὶ ἓνα;

ΑΛΚ. Εἰκός γε.

ΣΩ. Ἔστι δὲ ταῦτα δῆλον ὅτι ἂ οἶσθα.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλο τι οὖν τοσοῦτον μόνον διαφέρει τοῦ ἐν  
D τῷ δήμῳ ῥήτορος ὁ ἐν τῇ τοιαῦδε συνουσίᾳ, ὅτι ὁ  
μὲν ἀθρόους πείθει τὰ αὐτά, ὁ δὲ καθ' ἓνα;

ΑΛΚ. Κινδυνεύει.

ΣΩ. Ἴθι νῦν, ἐπειδὴ τοῦ αὐτοῦ φαίνεται πολλούς  
τε καὶ ἓνα πείθειν, ἐν ἐμοὶ ἐμμελέτησον καὶ ἐπι-  
χείρησον ἐπιδείξαι ὡς τὸ δίκαιον ἐνίοτε οὐ συμ-  
φέρει.

ΑΛΚ. Ὑβριστῆς εἶ, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Νῦν γοῦν ὑφ' ὑβρεως μέλλω σε πείθειν  
τὰναντία οἷς σὺ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἐθέλεις.

ΑΛΚ. Λέγε δή.

ΣΩ. Ἀποκρίνου μόνον τὰ ἐρωτώμενα.

E ΑΛΚ. Μή, ἀλλὰ σὺ αὐτὸς λέγε.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Yes.

soc. And the same man may well persuade one person singly, and many together, about things that he knows, just as the schoolmaster, I suppose, persuades either one or many about letters ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And again, will not the same man persuade either one or many about number ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And this will be the man who knows—the arithmetician ?

ALC. Quite so.

soc. And you too can persuade a single man about things of which you can persuade many ?

ALC. Presumably.

soc. And these are clearly things that you know.

ALC. Yes.

soc. And the only difference between the orator speaking before the people and one who speaks in a conversation like ours is that the former persuades men in a number together of the same things, and the latter persuades them one at a time ?

ALC. It looks like it.

soc. Come now, since we see that the same man may persuade either many or one, try your unpractised hand on me, and endeavour to show that the just is sometimes not expedient.

ALC. You are insolent, Socrates !

soc. This time, at any rate, I am going to have the insolence to persuade you of the opposite of that which you decline to prove to me.

ALC. Speak, then.

soc. Just answer my questions.

ALC. No, you yourself must be the speaker.

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ΣΩ. Τί δ' ; οὐχ ὅτι μάλιστα βούλει πεισθῆναι ;

ΑΛΚ. Πάντως δήπου.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εἰ λέγοις ὅτι ταῦθ' οὕτως ἔχει, μάλιστ' ἂν εἴης πεπεισμένος ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ἀποκρίνου δή· καὶ ἐὰν μὴ αὐτὸς σοῦ ἀκούσης, ὅτι τὰ δίκαια συμφέροντά ἐστιν, ἄλλω γε λέγοντι μὴ πιστεύσης.

ΑΛΚ. Οὗτοι, ἀλλ' ἀποκριτέον· καὶ γὰρ οὐδὲν οἶομαι βλαβήσεσθαι.

115 ΣΩ. Μαντικός γὰρ εἶ. καί μοι λέγε· τῶν δικαίων φῆς ἔνια μὲν συμφέρειν, ἔνια δ' οὔ ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ ; τὰ μὲν καλὰ αὐτῶν εἶναι, τὰ δ' οὔ ;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς τοῦτο ἐρωτᾷς ;

ΣΩ. Εἴ τις ἤδη σοι ἔδοξεν αἰσχροῦ μὲν, δίκαια δὲ πράττειν ;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔμοιγε·

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ πάντα τὰ δίκαια καλά ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' αὖ τὰ καλά ; πότερον πάντα ἀγαθὰ, ἢ τὰ μὲν, τὰ δ' οὔ ;

ΑΛΚ. Οἶομαι ἔγωγε, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἔνια τῶν καλῶν κακὰ εἶναι.

ΣΩ. Ἡ καὶ αἰσχροῦ ἀγαθὰ ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

B ΣΩ. Ἐὰν λέγεις τὰ τοιάδε, οἷον πολλοὶ ἐν πολέμῳ βοηθήσαντες ἑταίρῳ ἢ οἰκείῳ τραύματα ἔλαβον καὶ ἀπέθανον, οἱ δ' οὐ βοηθήσαντες, δέον, ὑγιεῖς ἀπῆλθον ;

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. What? Do you not wish above all things to be persuaded?

ALC. By all means, to be sure.

soc. And you would best be persuaded if you should say "the case is so"?

ALC. I agree.

soc. Then answer; and if you do not hear your own self say that the just is expedient, put no trust in the words of anyone again.

ALC. I will not; but I may as well answer; for I do not think I shall come to any harm.

soc. You are quite a prophet! Now tell me, do you consider some just things to be expedient, and others not?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And again, some noble, and some not?

ALC. What do you mean by that question?

soc. I would ask whether anyone ever seemed to you to be doing what was base and yet just.

ALC. Never.

soc. Well, are all just things noble?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And what of noble things, in their turn? Are they all good, or some only, while others are not?

ALC. In my opinion, Socrates, some noble things are evil.

soc. And some base things are good?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Do you mean as in one of the many cases where men have gone to rescue a comrade or kinsman in battle, and have been either wounded or killed, while those who did not go to the rescue, as duty bade, have got off safe and sound?

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τὴν τοιαύτην βοήθειαν καλὴν μὲν λέγεις κατὰ τὴν ἐπιχείρησιν τοῦ σώσαι οὓς ἔδει· τοῦτο δ' ἐστὶν ἀνδρεία· ἢ οὔ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Κακὴν δέ γε κατὰ τοὺς θανάτους τε καὶ ἔλκη· ἢ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

C ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν οὐκ ἄλλο μὲν ἢ ἀνδρεία, ἄλλο δὲ ὁ θάνατος;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα κατὰ ταῦτόν γε ἐστὶ καλὸν καὶ κακὸν τὸ τοῖς φίλοις βοηθεῖν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Ὅρα τοίνυν εἰ, ἢ γε καλόν, καὶ ἀγαθόν, ὥσπερ καὶ ἐνταῦθα· κατὰ τὴν ἀνδρείαν γὰρ ὡμολόγεις καλὸν εἶναι τὴν βοήθειαν· τοῦτ' οὖν αὐτὸ σκόπει, τὴν ἀνδρείαν, ἀγαθον ἢ κακόν; ὧδε δὲ σκόπει· πότερ' ἂν δέξαιό σοι εἶναι, ἀγαθὰ ἢ κακά;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀγαθὰ.

D ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τὰ μέγιστα μάλιστα, καὶ ἥκιστα τῶν τοιούτων δέξαιο ἂν στέρεσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὔ;

ΣΩ. Πῶς οὖν λέγεις περὶ ἀνδρείας; ἐπὶ πόσῳ ἂν αὐτοῦ δέξαιο στέρεσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐδὲ ζῆν ἂν ἐγὼ δεξαίμην δειλὸς ὢν.

ΣΩ. Ἐσχατον ἄρα κακῶν εἶναί σοι δοκεῖ ἢ δειλία.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε.

ΣΩ. Ἐξ ἴσου τῷ τεθνάναι, ὡς ἔοικεν.

ΑΛΚ. Φημί.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Precisely.

soc. And such a rescue you call noble, in respect of the endeavour to save those whom it was one's duty to save; and this is courage, is it not?

ALC. Yes.

soc. But you call it evil, in respect of the deaths and wounds?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And is not the courage one thing, and the death another?

ALC. Certainly.

soc. Then it is not in the same respect that rescuing one's friends is noble and evil?

ALC. Apparently not.

soc. Then see if, inasmuch as it is noble, it is also good; for in the present case you were admitting that the rescue was noble in respect of its courage: now consider this very thing, courage, and say whether it is good or bad. Consider it in this way: which would you choose to have, good things or evil?

ALC. Good.

soc. And most of all, the greatest goods, and of such things you would least allow yourself to be deprived?

ALC. To be sure.

soc. Then what do you say of courage? At what price would you allow yourself to be deprived of it?

ALC. I would give up life itself if I had to be a coward.

soc. Then you regard cowardice as the uttermost evil.

ALC. I do.

soc. On a par with death, it seems.

ALC. Yes.

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ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν θανάτῳ τε καὶ δειλίᾳ ἐναντιώτατον  
ζωὴ καὶ ἀνδρεία;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

Ε ΣΩ. Καὶ τὰ μὲν μάλιστ' ἂν εἶναι βούλοιο σοι, τὰ  
δὲ ἥκιστα;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' ὅτι τὰ μὲν ἄριστα ἡγήῃ, τὰ δὲ κάκιστα;

ΚΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἐν τοῖς ἀρίστοις ἄρα σὺ ἡγήῃ ἀνδρείαν εἶναι  
κὰν τοῖς κακίστοις θάνατον.<sup>1</sup>

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Τὸ ἄρα βοηθεῖν ἐν πολέμῳ τοῖς φίλοις, ἧ  
μὲν καλόν, κατ' ἀγαθοῦ πράξιν τὴν τῆς ἀνδρείας,  
καλὸν αὐτὸ προσεῖπας;

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνομαί γε.

ΣΩ. Κατὰ δὲ κακοῦ πράξιν τὴν τοῦ θανάτου  
κακόν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὧδε δίκαιον προσαγορεύειν ἐκάστην  
τῶν πράξεων· εἴπερ ἧ κακὸν ἀπεργάζεται κακὴν  
116 καλεῖς, καὶ ἧ ἀγαθὸν ἀγαθὴν κλητέον.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν καὶ ἧ ἀγαθόν, καλόν· ἧ δὲ κακόν,  
αἰσχρόν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τὴν ἄρα ἐν τῷ πολέμῳ τοῖς φίλοις βοήθειαν  
λέγων καλὴν μὲν εἶναι, κακὴν δέ, οὐδὲν διαφερόν-  
τως λέγεις ἢ εἰ προσεῖπες αὐτὴν ἀγαθὴν μὲν, κακὴν  
δέ.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ μοι δοκεῖς λέγειν, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲν ἄρα τῶν καλῶν, καθ' ὅσον καλόν,

<sup>1</sup> πάνυ γε . . . θάνατον Stobaeus: om. mss., Proclus.



## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And life and courage are the extreme opposites of death and cowardice ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And you would most desire to have the former, and least the latter ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Is that because you think the former best, and the latter worst ?

ALC. To be sure.

soc. So you reckon courage among the best things, and death among the worst.

ALC. I do.

soc. Then the rescue of one's friends in battle, inasmuch as it is noble in respect of the working of good by courage, you have termed noble ?

ALC. Apparently.

soc. But evil, in respect of the working of evil by death ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. So we may fairly describe each of these workings as follows : as you call either of them evil because of the evil it produces, so you must call it good because of the good it produces.

ALC. I believe that is so.

soc. And again, are they noble inasmuch as they are good, and base inasmuch as they are evil ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then in saying that the rescue of one's friends in battle is noble and yet evil, you mean just the same as if you called the rescue good, but evil.

ALC. I believe what you say is true, Socrates.

soc. So nothing noble, in so far as it is noble, is

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κακόν, οὐδὲ τῶν αἰσχυρῶν, καθ' ὅσον αἰσχυρόν, ἀγαθόν.

B ΑΛΚ. Οὐ φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Ἔτι τοίνυν καὶ ὧδε σκέψαι. ὅστις καλῶς πράττει, οὐχὶ καὶ εὖ πράττει;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οἱ δ' εὖ πράττοντες οὐκ εὐδαίμονες;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὔ;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εὐδαίμονες δι' ἀγαθῶν κτηήσιν;

ΑΛΚ. Μάλιστα.

ΣΩ. Κτῶνται δὲ ταῦτα τῷ εὖ καὶ καλῶς πράττειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τὸ εὖ ἄρα πράττειν ἀγαθόν;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δ' οὔ;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καλὸν ἢ εὐπραγία;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

C ΣΩ. Ταῦτόν ἄρα ἐφάνη ἡμῖν πάλιν αὖ καλὸν τε καὶ ἀγαθόν.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Ὅτι ἂν ἄρα εὕρωμεν καλόν, καὶ ἀγαθὸν εὐρήσομεν ἔκ γε τούτου τοῦ λόγου.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; τὰ ἀγαθὰ συμφέρει ἢ οὔ;

ΑΛΚ. Συμφέρει.

ΣΩ. Μνημονεύεις οὖν περὶ τῶν δικαίων πῶς ὠμολογήσαμεν;

ΑΛΚ. Οἶμαί γε τοὺς τὰ δίκαια πράττοντας ἀναγκαῖον εἶναι καλὰ πράττειν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ τοὺς τὰ καλὰ ἀγαθὰ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

D ΣΩ. Τὰ δὲ ἀγαθὰ συμφέρειν;

## ALCIBIADES I

evil, and nothing base, in so far as it is base, is good.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. Now then, consider it again in this way : whoever does nobly, does well too, does he not ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And are not those who do well happy ?

ALC. Of course.

soc. And they are happy because of the acquisition of good things ?

ALC. Certainly.

soc. And they acquire these by doing well and nobly ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. So doing well is good ?

ALC. Of course.

soc. And welfare is noble ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Hence we have seen again that noble and good are the same thing.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. Then whatever we find to be noble we shall find also to be good, by this argument at least.

ALC. We must.

soc. Well then, are good things expedient or not ?

ALC. Expedient.

soc. And do you remember what our admissions were about just things ?

ALC. I think we said that those who do just things must do noble things.

soc. And that those who do noble things must do good things ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And that good things are expedient ?

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ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τὰ δίκαια ἄρα, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, συμφέροντά ἐστιν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐοικεν.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; ταῦτα οὐ σὺ ὁ λέγων, ἐγὼ δὲ ὁ ἐρωτῶν;

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνομαι, ὡς ἔοικα.

ΣΩ. Εἰ οὖν τις ἀνίσταται συμβουλεύσων εἴτε Ἀθηναίοις εἴτε Πεπαρηθίοις, οἷόμενος γινώσκειν τὰ δίκαια καὶ τὰ ἄδικα, φήσει δ' εἶναι τὰ δίκαια κακὰ ἐνίοτε, ἄλλο τι ἢ καταγελώφης ἂν αὐτοῦ, ἐπειδήπερ τυγχάνεις καὶ σὺ λέγων ὅτι ταῦτά ἐστι  
 Ε δίκαιά τε καὶ συμφέροντα;

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ μὰ τοὺς θεούς, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐκ οἶδα ἔγωγε οὐδ' ὅ τι λέγω, ἀλλ' ἀτεχνῶς ἔοικα ἀτόπως ἔχοντι. τοτὲ μὲν γάρ μοι ἕτερα δοκεῖ σοῦ ἐρωτῶντος, τοτὲ δὲ ἄλλα.

ΣΩ. Εἶτα τοῦτο, ὦ φίλε, ἀγνοεῖς τὸ πάθημα τί ἐστιν;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Οἶει ἂν οὖν, εἴ τις ἐρωτῶη σε, δύο ὀφθαλμοὺς ἢ τρεῖς ἔχεις, καὶ δύο χεῖρας ἢ τέτταρας, ἢ ἄλλο τι τῶν τοιούτων, τοτὲ μὲν ἕτερ' ἂν ἀποκρίνασθαι, τοτὲ δὲ ἄλλα, ἢ αἰεὶ τὰ αὐτά;

117 ΑΛΚ. Δέδοικα μὲν ἔγωγε ἤδη περὶ ἔμαντοῦ, οἶμαι μέντοι τὰ αὐτά.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὅτι οἶσθα; τοῦτ' αἴτιον;

ΑΛΚ. Οἶμαι ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Περὶ ὧν ἄρα ἄκων τὰναντία ἀποκρίνη, δῆλον ὅτι περὶ τούτων οὐκ οἶσθα.

ΑΛΚ. Εἰκός γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ περὶ τῶν δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Yes.

soc. Hence just things, Alcibiades, are expedient.

ALC. So it seems.

soc. Well now, are not you the speaker of all this, and I the questioner ?

ALC. I seem to be, apparently.

soc. So if anyone stands up to advise either the Athenians or the Peparethians,<sup>1</sup> imagining that he understands what is just and unjust, and says that just things are sometimes evil, could you do other than laugh him to scorn, since you actually say yourself that just and expedient are the same ?

ALC. But by Heaven, Socrates, I do not even know what I am saying, I feel altogether in such a strange state ! For from moment to moment I change my view under your questioning.

soc. And are you unaware, my friend, what this feeling is ?

ALC. I am, quite.

soc. Well, do you suppose that if someone should ask you whether you have two eyes or three, two hands or four, or anything else of that sort, you would answer differently from moment to moment, or always the same thing ?

ALC. I begin to have misgivings about myself, but still I think I should make the same answer.

soc. And the reason would be, because you know ?

ALC. I think so.

soc. Then if you involuntarily give contradictory answers, clearly it must be about things of which you are ignorant.

ALC. Very likely.

soc. And you say you are bewildered in answering

<sup>1</sup> Peparethus is a small island off the coast of Thessaly.

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καὶ καλῶν καὶ αἰσχροῶν καὶ κακῶν καὶ ἀγαθῶν καὶ  
 συμφερόντων καὶ μὴ ἀποκρινόμενος φῆς πλανᾶσθαι;  
 εἶτα οὐ δῆλον ὅτι διὰ τὸ μὴ εἰδέναι περὶ αὐτῶν,  
 διὰ ταῦτα πλανᾶ;

B ΑΛΚ. Ἔμοιγε.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν οὕτω καὶ ἔχει· ἐπειδὴν τίς τι μὴ  
 εἰδῆ, ἀναγκαῖον περὶ τούτου πλανᾶσθαι τὴν ψυχὴν;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; οἶσθα ὄντινα τρόπον ἀναβήσῃ εἰς  
 τὸν οὐρανόν;

ΑΛΚ. Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ἦ καὶ πλανᾶταί σου ἢ δόξα περὶ ταῦτα;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Τὸ δ' αἴτιον οἶσθα ἢ ἐγὼ φράσω;

ΑΛΚ. Φράσον.

ΣΩ. Ὅτι, ὦ φίλε, οὐκ οἶει αὐτὸ ἐπίστασθαι οὐκ  
 ἐπιστάμενος.

C ΑΛΚ. Πῶς αὖ τοῦτο λέγεις;

ΣΩ. Ὅρα καὶ σὺ κοινῆ. ἂ μὴ ἐπίστασαι, γινώ-  
 σκεις δὲ ὅτι οὐκ ἐπίστασαι, πλανᾶ περὶ τὰ τοιαῦτα;  
 ὥσπερ περὶ ὄψου σκευασίας οἶσθα δήπου ὅτι οὐκ  
 οἶσθα;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Πότερον οὖν αὐτὸς περὶ ταῦτα δοξάζεις,  
 ὅπως χρῆ σκευάζειν, καὶ πλανᾶ, ἢ τῷ ἐπισταμένῳ  
 ἐπιτρέπεις;

ΑΛΚ. Οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' εἰ ἐν νηϊ πλέοις, ἄρα δοξάζοις ἂν

D πότερον χρῆ τὸν οἴακα εἶσω ἄγειν ἢ ἔξω, καὶ ἄτε

<sup>1</sup> The "tiller" was the handle of an oar at the side of the stern, and was moved towards or away from the centre of the ship.

## ALCIBIADES I

about just and unjust, noble and base, evil and good, expedient and inexpedient? Now, is it not obvious that your bewilderment is caused by your ignorance of these things?

ALC. I agree.

soc. Then is it the case that when a man does not know a thing he must needs be bewildered in spirit regarding that thing?

ALC. Yes, of course.

soc. Well now, do you know in what way you can ascend to heaven?

ALC. On my word, not I.

soc. Is that too a kind of question about which your judgement is bewildered?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Do you know the reason, or shall I state it?

ALC. State it.

soc. It is, my friend, that while not knowing the matter you do not suppose that you know it.

ALC. Here again, how do you mean?

soc. Do your share, in seeing for yourself. Are you bewildered about the kind of thing that you do not know and are aware of not knowing? For instance, you know, I suppose, that you do not know about the preparation of a tasty dish?

ALC. Quite so.

soc. Then do you think for yourself how you are to prepare it, and get bewildered, or do you entrust it to the person who knows?

ALC. I do the latter.

soc. And what if you should be on a ship at sea? Would you think whether the tiller should be moved inwards or outwards,<sup>1</sup> and in your ignorance bewilder

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οὐκ εἰδὼς πλανῶο ἄν, ἢ τῷ κυβερνήτῃ ἐπιτρέψας  
 ἂν ἡσυχίαν ἄγοις;

ΑΛΚ. Τῷ κυβερνήτῃ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα περὶ ἅ μὴ οἶσθα πλανᾶ, ἄνπερ  
 εἰδῆς ὅτι οὐκ οἶσθα;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔοικα.

ΣΩ. Ἐννοεῖς οὖν, ὅτι καὶ τὰ ἀμαρτήματα ἐν τῇ  
 πράξει διὰ ταύτην τὴν ἄγνοιάν ἐστι, τὴν τοῦ μὴ  
 εἰδότα οἶεσθαι εἰδέναί;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς αὖ λέγεις τοῦτο;

ΣΩ. Τότε που ἐπιχειροῦμεν πράττειν, ὅταν οἴω-  
 μεθα εἰδέναί ὅ τι πράττομεν;

Ε ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ὅταν δέ γέ πού τινες μὴ οἴωνται εἰδέναί,  
 ἄλλοις παραδιδόασιν;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δ' οὔ;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οἱ τοιοῦτοι τῶν μὴ εἰδότων ἀναμάρ-  
 τητοι ζῶσι διὰ τὸ ἄλλοις περὶ αὐτῶν ἐπιτρέπειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τίνες οὖν οἱ ἀμαρτάνοντες; οὐ γάρ που οἷ  
 γε εἰδότες.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἐπειδὴ δὲ οὔθ' οἱ εἰδότες οὔθ' οἱ τῶν μὴ  
 118 εἰδότων εἰδότες ὅτι οὐκ ἴσασι, ἢ ἄλλοι λείπονται ἢ  
 οἱ μὴ εἰδότες, οἰόμενοι δ' εἰδέναί;

ΑΛΚ. Οὔκ, ἀλλὰ οὔτοι.

ΣΩ. Αὕτη ἄρα ἡ ἄγνοια τῶν κακῶν αἰτία καὶ ἡ  
 ἐπονείδιστος ἀμαθία;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὅταν ἦ περὶ τὰ μέγιστα, τότε  
 κακουργοτάτη καὶ αἰσχίστη;

ΑΛΚ. Πολύ γε.



## ALCIBIADES, I

yourself, or would you entrust it to the helmsman, and be quiet ?

ALC. I would leave it to him.

soc. So you are not bewildered about what you do not know, so long as you know that you do not know ?

ALC. It seems I am not.

soc. Then do you note that mistakes in action also are due to this ignorance of thinking one knows when one does not ?

ALC. Here again, how do you mean ?

soc. We set about acting, I suppose, when we think we know what we are doing ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. But when people think they do not know, I suppose they hand it over to others ?

ALC. To be sure.

soc. And so that kind of ignorant person makes no mistakes in life, because they entrust such matters to others ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Who then are those who make mistakes ? For, I take it, they cannot be those who know.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. But since it is neither those who know, nor those of the ignorant who know that they do not know, the only people left, I think, are those who do not know, but think that they do ?

ALC. Yes, only those.

soc. Then this ignorance is a cause of evils, and is the discreditable sort of stupidity ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And when it is about the greatest matters, it is most injurious and base ?

ALC. By far.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; ἔχεις μείζω εἰπεῖν δικαίων τε καὶ καλῶν καὶ ἀγαθῶν καὶ συμφερόντων;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν περὶ ταῦτα σὺ φῆς πλανᾶσθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Εἰ δὲ πλανᾶ, ἄρ' οὐ δῆλον ἐκ τῶν ἔμπροσθεν Β ὅτι οὐ μόνον ἀγνοεῖς τὰ μέγιστα, ἀλλὰ καὶ οὐκ εἰδῶς οἶει αὐτὰ εἰδέναί;

ΑΛΚ. Κινδυνεύω.

ΣΩ. Βαβαῖ ἄρα, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδῃ, οἷον πάθος πέπονθας· ὁ ἐγὼ ὀνομάζειν μὲν ὀκνῶ, ὅμως δέ, ἐπειδὴ μόνω ἐσμέν, ῥητέον. ἀμαθία γὰρ συνοικεῖς, ὦ βέλτιστε, τῇ ἐσχάτῃ, ὡς ὁ λόγος σου κατηγορεῖ καὶ σὺ σαυτοῦ· διὸ καὶ ἄπτεις ἄρα πρὸς τὰ πολιτικὰ πρὶν παιδευθῆναι. πέπονθας δὲ τοῦτο οὐ σὺ μόνος, ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ πολλοὶ τῶν πραττόντων τὰ τῆσδε τῆς C πόλεως, πλὴν ὀλίγων γε καὶ ἴσως τοῦ σοῦ ἐπιτρόπου Περικλέους.

ΑΛΚ. Λέγεταιί γέ τοι, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐκ ἀπὸ τοῦ αὐτομάτου σοφὸς γεγονέναι, ἀλλὰ πολλοῖς καὶ σοφοῖς συγγεγονέναι, καὶ Πυθοκλείδῃ καὶ Ἀναξαγόρα· καὶ νῦν ἔτι τηλικούτος ὢν Δάμωني σύνεστιν αὐτοῦ τούτου ἔνεκα.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; ἤδη τινὰ εἶδες σοφὸν ὁτιοῦν ἀδυνατουῦντα ποιῆσαι ἄλλον σοφὸν ἄπερ αὐτός; ὡσπερ ὅς σε ἐδίδαξε γράμματα, αὐτός τε ἦν σοφὸς καὶ σὲ ἐποίησε τῶν τε ἄλλων ὄντινα ἐβούλετο· ἦ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

<sup>1</sup> A musician of Ceos (who was perhaps also a Pythagorean philosopher) who taught in Athens.

<sup>2</sup> An Ionian philosopher who lived in Athens c. 480–430 B.C.

<sup>3</sup> An Athenian musician and sophist.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. Well then, can you mention any greater things than the just, the noble, the good, and the expedient ?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. And it is about these, you say, that you are bewildered ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. But if you are bewildered, is it not clear from what has gone before that you are not only ignorant of the greatest things, but while not knowing them you think that you do ?

ALC. I am afraid so.

soc. Alack then, Alcibiades, for the plight you are in ! I shrink indeed from giving it a name, but still, as we are alone, let me speak out. You are wedded to stupidity, my fine friend, of the vilest kind ; you are impeached of this by your own words, out of your own mouth ; and this, it seems, is why you dash into politics before you have been educated. And you are not alone in this plight, but you share it with most of those who manage our city's affairs, except just a few, and perhaps your guardian, Pericles.

ALC. Yes, you know, Socrates, they say he did not get his wisdom independently, but consorted with many wise men, such as Pythocleides<sup>1</sup> and Anaxagoras<sup>2</sup> ; and now, old as he is, he still confers with Damon<sup>3</sup> for that very purpose.

soc. Well, but did you ever find a man who was wise in anything and yet unable to make another man wise in the same things as himself ? For instance, the man who taught you letters was wise himself, and also made you wise, and anyone else he wished to, did he not ?

ALC. Yes.

D    ζη. Οὐκοῦν καὶ σὺ ὁ παρ' ἐκείνου μαθὼν ἄλλον οἶός τε ἔσῃ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

      ζη. Καὶ ὁ κιθαριστῆς δὲ καὶ ὁ παιδοτρίβης ὡσαύτως;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

      ζη. Καλὸν γὰρ δήπου τεκμήριον τοῦτο τῶν ἐπισταμένων ὅτιοῦν ὅτι ἐπίστανται, ἐπειδὰν καὶ ἄλλον οἶοί τε ὧσιν ἀποδείξαι ἐπιστάμενον.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

      ζη. Τί οὖν; ἔχεις εἰπεῖν, Περικλῆς τίνα ἐποίησε σοφόν, ἀπὸ τῶν υἱέων ἀρξάμενος;

E    ΑΛΚ. Τί δ', εἰ τῷ Περικλέους υἱέε ἠλιθίω ἐγενέσθην, ὧ Σώκρατες;

      ζη. Ἄλλὰ Κλεινίαν τὸν σὸν ἀδελφόν.

ΑΛΚ. Τί δ' ἂν αὖ Κλεινίαν λέγοις, μαινόμενον ἄνθρωπον;

      ζη. Ἐπειδὴ τοίνυν Κλεινίας μὲν μαίνεται, τῷ δὲ Περικλέους υἱέε ἠλιθίω ἐγενέσθην, σοὶ τίνα αἰτίαν ἀναθῶμεν, δι' ὃ τι σε οὕτως ἔχοντα περιορᾷ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ, οἶμαι, αἴτιος οὐ προσέχων τὸν νοῦν.

119   ζη. Ἄλλὰ τῶν ἄλλων Ἀθηναίων ἢ τῶν ξένων δούλον ἢ ἐλεύθερον εἶπέ, ὅστις αἰτίαν ἔχει διὰ τὴν Περικλέους συνουσίαν σοφώτερος γεγονέναι, ὥσπερ ἐγὼ ἔχω σοὶ εἰπεῖν διὰ τὴν Ζήνωνος Πυθόδωρον τὸν Ἰσολόχου καὶ Καλλιᾶν τὸν Καλλιᾶδου, ὧν ἕκαστος Ζήνωνι ἑκατὸν μνᾶς τελέσας σοφός τε καὶ ἐλλόγιμος γέγονεν.

<sup>1</sup> A friend of Zeno : cf. *Parmen.* 126.

<sup>2</sup> An Athenian general.

<sup>3</sup> Of Elea, in S. Italy ; a disciple of Parmenides who criticized the Pythagorean teaching.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And you too, who learnt from him, will be able to make another man wise ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And the same holds of the harper and the trainer ?

ALC. Certainly.

soc. For, I presume, it is a fine proof of one's knowing anything that one knows, when one is able to point to another man whom one has made to know it.

ALC. I agree.

soc. Well then, can you tell me whom Pericles made wise ? One of his sons, to begin with ?

ALC. But what if the two sons of Pericles were simpletons, Socrates ?

soc. Well, Cleinias, your brother.

ALC. But why should you mention Cleinias, a madman ?

soc. Well, if Cleinias is mad and the two sons of Pericles were simpletons, what reason are we to assign, in your case, for his allowing you to be in your present condition ?

ALC. I believe I am myself to blame for not attending to him.

soc. But tell me of any other Athenian or foreigner, slave or freeman,<sup>1</sup> who is accounted to have become wiser through converse with Pericles ; as I can tell you that Pythodorus<sup>1</sup> son of Isolochus, and Callias,<sup>2</sup> son of Calliades, became through that of Zeno<sup>3</sup> ; each of them has paid Zeno a hundred minae,<sup>4</sup> and has become both wise and distinguished.

<sup>4</sup> About £600-£800, or the total expenses of two or three years at an English University.

## ΠΛΑΤΟ

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔχω.

ΣΩ. Εἶεν· τί οὖν διανοῇ περὶ σαυτοῦ; πότερον ἔαν ὡς νῦν ἔχεις, ἢ ἐπιμέλειάν τινα ποιεῖσθαι;

Β ΑΛΚ. Κοινὴ βουλή, ὦ Σώκρατες. καίτοι ἐννοῶ σου εἰπόντος καὶ συγχωρῶ. δοκοῦσι γάρ μοι οἱ τὰ τῆς πόλεως πράττοντες ἐκτὸς ὀλίγων ἀπαίδευτοι εἶναι.

ΣΩ. Εἶτα τί δὴ τοῦτο;

ΑΛΚ. Εἰ μὲν που ἦσαν πεπαιδευμένοι, ἔδει ἂν τὸν ἐπιχειροῦντα αὐτοῖς ἀνταγωνίζεσθαι μαθόντα καὶ ἀσκήσαντα ἰέναι ὡς ἐπ' ἀθλητάς· νῦν δ' ἐπειδὴ καὶ οὔτοι ἰδιωτικῶς ἔχοντες ἐληλύθασιν ἐπὶ τὰ τῆς πόλεως, τί δεῖ ἀσκεῖν καὶ μαθάνοντα πράγματ' ἔχειν; ἐγὼ γὰρ εὖ οἶδα ὅτι τούτων τῇ γε φύσει πάνυ πολὺ περιέσομαι.

ΣΩ. Βαβαί, οἶον, ὦ ἄριστε, τοῦτ' εἴρηκας· ὡς ἀνάξιον τῆς ἰδέας καὶ τῶν ἄλλων τῶν σοι ὑπαρχόντων.

ΑΛΚ. Τί μάλιστα καὶ πρὸς τί τοῦτο λέγεις, ὦ Σώκρατες;

ΣΩ. Ἀγανακτῶ ὑπὲρ τε σοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἐμοῦ ἔρωτος.

ΑΛΚ. Τί δὴ;

ΣΩ. Εἰ ἤξιώσας τὸν ἀγῶνά σοι εἶναι πρὸς τοὺς ἐνθάδε ἀνθρώπους.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ πρὸς τίνας μὴν;

ΣΩ. Ἄξιον τοῦτό γε καὶ ἐρέσθαι ἀνδρα οἰόμενον μεγαλόφρονα εἶναι.

Δ ΑΛΚ. Πῶς λέγεις; οὐ πρὸς τούτους μοι ὁ ἀγών;

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ κἂν εἰ τριήρη διενοοῦ κυβερνᾶν μέλλουσαν ναυμαχεῖν, ἥρκει ἂν σοι τῶν συνναυτῶν

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ALC. Well, upon my word, I cannot.

SOC. Very good: then what is your intention regarding yourself? Will you remain as you are, or take some trouble?

ALC. We must put our heads together, Socrates. And indeed, as soon as you speak, I take the point and agree. For the men who manage the city's affairs, apart from a few, do strike me as uneducated.

SOC. Then what does that mean?

ALC. That if they were educated, I suppose anyone who undertook to contend against them would have to get some knowledge and practice first, as he would for a match with athletes: but now, seeing that these men have gone in for politics as amateurs, what need is there for me to practise and have the trouble of learning? For I am sure that my natural powers alone will give me an easy victory over them.

SOC. Ho, ho, my good sir, what a thing to say! How unworthy of your looks and your other advantages!

ALC. What is your meaning now, Socrates? What is the connexion?

SOC. I am grieved for you, and for my love.

ALC. Why, pray?

SOC. That you should expect your contest to be with the men we have here.

ALC. Well, but with whom is it to be?

SOC. Is that a worthy question to be asked by a man who considers himself high-spirited?

ALC. How do you mean? Is not my contest with these men?

SOC. Well, suppose you were intending to steer a warship into action, would you be content to be the best hand among the crew at steering or, while

βελτίστῳ εἶναι τὰ κυβερνητικά, ἢ ταῦτα μὲν ὧν  
 ἂν δεῖν ὑπάρχειν, ἀπέβλεπες δ' ἂν εἰς τοὺς ὡς  
 ἀληθῶς ἀνταγωνιστάς, ἀλλ' οὐχ ὡς νῦν εἰς τοὺς  
 συναγωνιστάς; ὧν δήπου περιγενέσθαι σε δεῖ

Ε καταφρονηθέντας συναγωνίζεσθαί σοι πρὸς τοὺς  
 πολεμίους, εἰ δὴ τῷ ὄντι γε καλόν τι ἔργον ἀπο-  
 δεῖξασθαι διανοῇ καὶ ἄξιον σαυτοῦ τε καὶ τῆς  
 πόλεως.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ μὲν δὴ διανοοῦμαί γε.

ΣΩ. Πάνυ σοι ἄρα ἄξιον ἀγαπᾶν, εἰ τῶν στρατιω-  
 τῶν βελτίων εἶ, ἀλλ' οὐ πρὸς τοὺς τῶν ἀντιπάλων  
 ἡγεμόνας ἀποβλέπειν, εἴ ποτε<sup>1</sup> ἐκείνων βελτίων  
 γένοιο, σκοποῦντα καὶ ἀσκοῦντα πρὸς ἐκείνους.

120 ΑΛΚ. Λέγεις δὲ τίνας τούτους, ὦ Σώκρατες;

ΣΩ. Οὐκ οἶσθα ἡμῶν τὴν πόλιν Λακεδαιμονίοις  
 τε καὶ τῷ μεγάλῳ βασιλεῖ πολεμοῦσαν ἐκάστοτε;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εἶπερ ἐν νῷ ἔχεις ἡγεμῶν εἶναι  
 τῆσδε τῆς πόλεως, πρὸς τοὺς Λακεδαιμονίων  
 βασιλεῖς καὶ τοὺς Περσῶν τὸν ἀγῶνα ἡγούμενός  
 σοι εἶναι ὀρθῶς ἂν ἡγοῖο;

ΑΛΚ. Κινδυνεύεις ἀληθῆ λέγειν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ, ὦ γαθέ, ἀλλὰ πρὸς Μειδίαν σε δεῖ τὸν  
 Β ὀρτυγοκόπον ἀποβλέπειν καὶ ἄλλους τοιούτους οἱ  
 τὰ τῆς πόλεως πράττειν ἐπιχειροῦσιν, ἔτι τὴν  
 ἀνδραποδώδη, φαῖεν ἂν αἱ γυναῖκες, τρίχα ἔχοντες  
 ἐν τῇ ψυχῇ ὑπ' ἀμουσίας καὶ οὐπω ἀποβεβλη-  
 κότες, ἔτι δὲ βαρβαρίζοντες ἐληλύθασιν κολακεύ-

<sup>1</sup> εἴ ποτε Burnet: ὁπότε MSS.



## ALCIBIADES I

regarding this skill as a necessary qualification, would you keep your eye on your actual opponents in the fight, and not, as now, on your fellow-fighters? These, I conceive, you ought so far to surpass that they would not feel fit to be your opponents, but only to be your despised fellow-fighters against the enemy, if you mean really to make your mark with some noble action that will be worthy both of yourself and of the city.

ALC. Why, I do mean to.

SOC. So you think it quite fitting for you to be satisfied if you are better than the soldiers, but neglect to keep your eye on the enemy's leaders with a view to showing yourself better than they are, or to plan and practise against them!

ALC. Of whom are you speaking now, Socrates?

SOC. Do you not know that our city makes war occasionally on the Spartans and on the Great King?

ALC. That is true.

SOC. And if you are minded to be the head of our state, you would be right in thinking that your contest is with the kings of Sparta and of Persia?

ALC. That sounds like the truth.

SOC. No, my good friend; you ought rather to keep your eye on Meidias the quail-filliper<sup>1</sup> and others of his sort—who undertake to manage the city's affairs, while they still have the slavish hair<sup>2</sup> (as the women would say) showing in their minds through their lack of culture, and have not yet got rid of it; who, moreover, have come with their out-

<sup>1</sup> Meidias is mentioned by Aristophanes (*Av.* 1297) for his skill in the game of filliping quails which were specially trained not to flinch.

<sup>2</sup> Slaves in Athens were largely natives of western Asia, and had thick, close hair, very different from the wavy locks of the Greeks.

## PLATO

σοντες τὴν πόλιν, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἄρξοντες—πρὸς τούτους σε δεῖ, οὔσπερ λέγω, βλέποντα σαυτοῦ δὴ ἀμελεῖν, καὶ μήτε μανθάνειν ὅσα μαθήσεως ἔχεται, μέλλοντα τοσοῦτον ἀγῶνα ἀγωνίζεσθαι, μήτε ἀσκεῖν ὅσα δεῖται ἀσκήσεως, καὶ πᾶσαν παρασκευὴν παρεσκευασμένον οὕτως ἵεναί ἐπὶ τὰ τῆς πόλεως.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ', ὦ Σώκρατες, δοκεῖς μὲν μοι ἀληθῆ λέγειν, οἶμαι μέντοι τούς τε Λακεδαιμονίων στρατηγούς καὶ τὸν Περσῶν βασιλέα οὐδὲν διαφέρειν τῶν ἄλλων.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ', ὦ ἄριστε, τὴν οἴησιν ταύτην σκόπει οἷαν ἔχεις.

ΑΛΚ. Τοῦ πέρι;

ΣΩ. Πρῶτον μὲν ποτέρως ἂν οἶει σαυτοῦ μᾶλλον ἐπιμεληθῆναι, φοβούμενός τε καὶ οἰόμενος δεινούς αὐτούς εἶναι, ἢ μή;

ΑΛΚ. Δῆλον ὅτι εἰ δεινούς οἰοίμην.

ΣΩ. Μῶν οὖν οἶει τι βλαβήσεσθαι ἐπιμεληθεῖς σαυτοῦ;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐδαμῶς, ἀλλὰ καὶ μεγάλα ὀνήσεσθαι.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἐν μὲν τοῦτο τοσοῦτον κακὸν ἔχει ἢ οἴησις αὕτη.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Τὸ δεύτερον τοίνυν, ὅτι καὶ ψευδῆς ἐστίν, ἐκ τῶν εἰκότων σκέψαι.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δῆ;

ΣΩ. Πότερον εἰκὸς ἀμείνους γίνεσθαι φύσει ἐν γενναίοις γένεσιν ἢ μή;

ΑΛΚ. Δῆλον ὅτι ἐν τοῖς γενναίοις.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τοὺς εὖ φύντας, ἐὰν καὶ εὖ τραφῶσιν, οὕτω τελέους γίνεσθαι πρὸς ἀρετὴν;

## ALCIBIADES I

landish speech to flatter the state, not to rule it—to these, I tell you, should your eyes be turned; and then you can disregard yourself, and need neither learn what is to be learnt for the great contest in which you are to be engaged, nor practise what requires practice, and so ensure that you are perfectly prepared before entering upon a political career.

ALC. Why, Socrates, I believe you are right; though I think neither the Spartan generals nor the Persian king are at all different from other people.

SOC. But, my excellent friend, consider what this notion of yours means.

ALC. In regard to what?

SOC. First of all, do you think you would take more pains over yourself if you feared them and thought them terrible, or if you did not?

ALC. Clearly, if I thought them terrible.

SOC. And do you think you will come to any harm by taking pains over yourself?

ALC. By no means; rather that I shall get much benefit.

SOC. And on this single count that notion<sup>1</sup> of yours is so much to the bad.

ALC. True.

SOC. Then, in the second place, observe the probability that it is false.

ALC. How so?

SOC. Is it probable that noble races should produce better natures, or not?

ALC. Clearly, noble races would.

SOC. And will not the well-born, provided they are well brought up, probably be perfected in virtue?

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* about the Spartan generals and the Persian king, 120 c.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Σκεψώμεθα δὴ, τοῖς ἐκείνων τὰ ἡμέτερα ἀντιτιθέντες, πρῶτον μὲν εἰ δοκοῦσι φαυλοτέρων γενῶν εἶναι οἱ Λακεδαιμονίων καὶ Περσῶν βασιλεῖς. ἢ οὐκ ἴσμεν ὡς οἱ μὲν Ἑρακλέους, οἱ δὲ Ἀχαιμένους ἔκγονοι, τὸ δ' Ἑρακλέους τε γένος καὶ τὸ Ἀχαιμένους εἰς Περσέα τὸν Διὸς ἀναφέρεται;

121 ΑΛΚ. Καὶ γὰρ τὸ ἡμέτερον, ὦ Σώκρατες, εἰς Εὐρυσάκη, τὸ δ' Εὐρυσάκους εἰς Δία.

ΣΩ. Καὶ γὰρ τὸ ἡμέτερον, ὦ γενναῖε Ἀλκιβιάδη, εἰς Δαίδαλον, ὁ δὲ Δαίδαλος εἰς Ἡφαιστον τὸν Διὸς. ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν τούτων ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀρξάμενα βασιλεῖς εἰσὶν ἐκ βασιλέων μέχρι Διός, οἱ μὲν Ἄργους τε καὶ Λακεδαίμονος, οἱ δὲ τῆς Περσίδος τὸ αἰεὶ, πολλάκις δὲ καὶ τῆς Ἀσίας, ὥσπερ καὶ νῦν ἡμεῖς δὲ αὐτοὶ τε ἰδιῶται καὶ οἱ πατέρες. εἰ B δὲ καὶ τοὺς προγόνους δέοι καὶ τὴν πατρίδα Εὐρυσάκους ἐπιδείξαι Σαλαμίνα ἢ τὴν Αἰακοῦ τοῦ ἔτι προτέρου Αἰγιναν Ἀρτοξέρξη τῷ Ξέρξου, πόσον ἂν οἶει γέλωτα ὀφλεῖν; ἀλλ' ὄρα μὴ τοῦ τε γένους ὄγκῳ ἐλαττώμεθα τῶν ἀνδρῶν καὶ τῆ ἄλλῃ τροφῇ. ἢ οὐκ ἤσθησαι τοῖς τε Λακεδαιμονίων βασιλεῦσιν ὡς μεγάλα τὰ ὑπάρχοντα, ὧν αἱ γυναῖκες δημοσίᾳ φυλάττονται ὑπὸ τῶν ἐφόρων, ὅπως εἰς δύναμιν μὴ λάθῃ ἐξ ἄλλου γεγόμενος ὁ C βασιλεὺς ἢ ἐξ Ἑρακλειδῶν; ὁ δὲ Περσῶν τοσοῦτον ὑπερβάλλει, ὥστε οὐδεὶς ὑποψίαν ἔχει ὡς ἐξ ἄλλου ἂν βασιλεὺς γένοιτο ἢ ἐξ αὐτοῦ· διὸ οὐ φρουρεῖται ἢ βασιλέως γυνὴ ἄλλ' ἢ ὑπὸ φόβου.

<sup>1</sup> Socrates' father, Sophroniscus, was a sculptor, and Daedalus was the legendary inventor of sculpture.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.*, the kings of Sparta and Persia.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. That must be so.

SOC. Then let us consider, by comparing our lot with theirs, whether the Spartan and Persian kings appear to be of inferior birth. Do we not know that the former are descendants of Hercules and the latter of Achaemenes, and that the line of Hercules and the line of Achaemenes go back to Perseus, son of Zeus ?

ALC. Yes, and mine, Socrates, to Eurysaces, and that of Eurysaces to Zeus !

SOC. Yes, and mine, noble Alcibiades, to Daedalus,<sup>1</sup> and Daedalus to Hephaestus, son of Zeus ! But take the lines of those people,<sup>2</sup> going back from them : you have a succession of kings reaching to Zeus—on the one hand, kings of Argos and Sparta ; on the other, of Persia, which they have always ruled, and frequently Asia also, as at present ; whereas we are private persons ourselves, and so were our fathers. And then, suppose that you had to make what show you could of your ancestors, and of Salamis as the native land of Eurysaces, or of Aegina as the home of the yet earlier Aeacus, to impress Artaxerxes, son of Xerxes, how you must expect to be laughed at ! Why, I am afraid we are quite outdone by those persons in pride of birth and upbringing altogether. Or have you not observed how great are the advantages of the Spartan kings, and how their wives are kept under statutory ward of the ephors, in order that every possible precaution may be taken against the king being born of any but the Heracleidae ? And the Persian king so far surpasses us that no one has a suspicion that he could have been born of anybody but the king before him ; and hence the king's wife has nothing to guard her except fear. When

ἐπειδὴν δὲ γένηται ὁ παῖς ὁ πρεσβύτατος, οὐπερ ἢ ἀρχή, πρῶτον μὲν ἐορτάζουσι πάντες οἱ ἐν τῇ βασιλείῳ, ὧν ἂν ἀρχῇ, εἶτα εἰς τὸν ἄλλον χρόνον ταύτῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ βασιλείῳ γενέθλια πᾶσα θύει καὶ ἐορτάζει ἢ Ἀσία· ἡμῶν δὲ γενομένων, τὸ τοῦ

D κωμωδοποιοῦ, οὐδ' οἱ γείτονες σφόδρα τι αἰσθάνονται, ὧ Ἀλκιβιάδῃ. μετὰ τοῦτο τρέφεται ὁ παῖς, οὐχ ὑπὸ γυναικὸς τροφῆς ὀλίγου ἀξίας, ἀλλ' ὑπ' εὐνούχων οἱ ἂν δοκῶσι τῶν περὶ βασιλείᾳ ἄριστοι εἶναι· οἷς τὰ τε ἄλλα προστέτακται ἐπιμέλῃσθαι τοῦ γενομένου, καὶ ὅπως κάλλιστος ἔσται μηχανᾶσθαι, ἀναπλάττοντας τὰ μέλη τοῦ παιδὸς καὶ κατορθοῦντας· καὶ ταῦτα δρῶντες ἐν μεγάλῃ

E τιμῇ εἰσιν. ἐπειδὴν δὲ ἐπτέτεις γένωνται οἱ παῖδες, ἐπὶ τοὺς ἵππους καὶ ἐπὶ τοὺς τούτων διδασκάλους φοιτῶσι, καὶ ἐπὶ τὰς θήρας ἄρχονται ἰέναι· δις ἐπτὰ δὲ γενόμενον<sup>1</sup> ἐτῶν τὸν παῖδα παραλαμβάνουσιν οὓς ἐκεῖνοι βασιλείου παιδαγωγὸς ὀνομάζουσιν· εἰσὶ δὲ ἐξαιρεγμένοι Περσῶν οἱ ἄριστοι δόξαντες ἐν ἡλικίᾳ τέτταρες, ὃ τε σοφώτατος καὶ ὁ δικαιοτάτος καὶ ὁ σωφρονέστατος

122 καὶ ὁ ἀνδρειότατος. ὧν ὁ μὲν μαγείαν τε διδάσκει τὴν Ζωροάστρου τοῦ Ὠρομάζου· ἔστι δὲ τοῦτο θεῶν θεραπεία· διδάσκει δὲ καὶ τὰ βασιλικά· ὁ δὲ δικαιοτάτος ἀληθεύειν διὰ παντὸς τοῦ βίου· ὁ δὲ σωφρονέστατος μηδ' ὑπὸ μιᾶς ἄρχεσθαι τῶν ἡδονῶν, ἵνα ἐλεύθερος εἶναι ἐθίζηται καὶ ὄντως βασιλεύς, ἄρχων πρῶτον τῶν ἐν αὐτῷ, ἀλλὰ μὴ

<sup>1</sup> γενόμενον Buttmann: γενομένων MSS.

<sup>1</sup> The saying, which became proverbial, is thought to have occurred in one of the (now lost) plays of Plato, the Athenian comic poet, who lived c. 460–389 B.C.

## ALCIBIADES I

the eldest son, the heir to the throne, is born, first of all the king's subjects who are in his palace have a feast, and then for ever after on that date the whole of Asia celebrates the king's birthday with sacrifice and feasting: but when we are born, as the comic poet<sup>1</sup> says, "even the neighbours barely notice it," Alcibiades. After that comes the nurture of the child, not at the hands of a woman-nurse of little worth, but of the most highly approved eunuchs in the king's service, who are charged with the whole tendance of the new-born child, and especially with the business of making him as handsome as possible by moulding his limbs into a correct shape; and while doing this they are in high honour. When the boys are seven years old they are given horses and have riding lessons, and they begin to follow the chase. And when the boy reaches fourteen years he is taken over by the royal tutors, as they call them there: these are four men chosen as the most highly esteemed among the Persians of mature age, namely, the wisest one, the justest one, the most temperate one, and the bravest one. The first of these teaches him the magian lore of Zoroaster,<sup>2</sup> son of Horomazes; and that is the worship of the gods: he teaches him also what pertains to a king. The justest teaches him to be truthful all his life long; the most temperate, not to be mastered by even a single pleasure, in order that he may be accustomed to be a free man and a veritable king, who is the master first of all that is in him, not the slave; while the bravest trains him

<sup>2</sup> Zoroaster was the reputed founder of the Persian religion, of which the ministers were the Magi or hereditary priests.

δουλεύων· ὁ δὲ ἀνδριότατος ἄφοβον καὶ ἀδεᾶ  
 παρασκευάζων, ὡς ὅταν δείσῃ δούλον ὄντα. σοὶ  
 Β δ', ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, Περικλῆς ἐπέστησε παιδαγωγὸν  
 τῶν οἰκετῶν τὸν ἀχρειότατον ὑπὸ γήρωσ, Ζώπυρον  
 τὸν Θραῦκα. διήλθον δὲ καὶ τὴν ἄλλην ἄν σοι τῶν  
 ἀνταγωνιστῶν τροφήν τε καὶ παιδείαν, εἰ μὴ  
 πολὺ ἔργον ἦν· καὶ ἅμα ταῦθ' ἱκανὰ δηλώσαι καὶ  
 τᾶλλα ὅσα τούτοις ἀκόλουθα. τῆς δὲ σῆς γενέ-  
 σεως, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, καὶ τροφῆς καὶ παιδείας, ἢ  
 ἄλλου ὁτουοῦν Ἀθηναίων, ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν, οὐδενὶ  
 μέλει, εἰ μὴ εἴ τις ἐραστής σου τυγχάνει ὢν. εἰ  
 δ' αὖ ἐθέλοις εἰς πλούτους ἀποβλέψαι καὶ τρυφὰς  
 C καὶ ἐσθήτας ἱματίων θ' ἔλξεις καὶ μύρων ἀλοιφὰς  
 καὶ θεραπόντων πλήθους ἀκολουθίας τὴν τε ἄλλην  
 ἀβρότητα τὴν Περσῶν, αἰσχυρθείης ἂν ἐπὶ σεαυτῷ,  
 αἰσθανόμενος ὅσον αὐτῶν ἐλλείπεις.

Εἰ δ' αὖ ἐθελήσεις εἰς σωφροσύνην τε καὶ  
 κοσμιότητα ἀποβλέψαι καὶ εὐχέρειαν καὶ εὐκολίαν  
 καὶ μεγαλοφροσύνην καὶ εὐταξίαν καὶ ἀνδρείαν  
 καὶ καρτερίαν καὶ φιλοπονίαν καὶ φιλονικίαν καὶ  
 φιλοτιμίαν τὰς Λακεδαιμονίων, παῖδα ἂν ἠγήσαιο  
 D σαυτὸν πᾶσι τοῖς τοιούτοις. εἰ δ' αὖ τι καὶ πλούτῳ  
 προσέχεις καὶ κατὰ τοῦτο οἶε τι εἶναι, μηδὲ τοῦτο  
 ἡμῖν ἄρρητον ἔστω, ἐάν πως αἴσθη οὐ εἶ. τοῦτο  
 μὲν γὰρ εἰ ἐθέλεις τοὺς Λακεδαιμονίων πλούτους  
 ἰδεῖν, γνώσῃ ὅτι πολὺ τάνθάδε τῶν ἐκεῖ ἐλλείπει.  
 γῆν μὲν γὰρ ὅσῃν ἔχουσι τῆς θ' ἑαυτῶν καὶ Μεσ-  
 σήνης, οὐδ' ἂν εἰς ἀμφισβητήσειε τῶν τῆδε πλήθει  
 οὐδὲ ἀρετῆ, οὐδ' αὖ ἀνδραπόδων κτήσει τῶν τε  
 ἄλλων καὶ τῶν εἰλωτικῶν, οὐδὲ μὴν ἵππων γε, οὐδ'



## ALCIBIADES I

to be fearless and undaunted, telling him that to be daunted is to be enslaved. But you, Alcibiades, had a tutor set over you by Pericles from amongst his servants, who was old as to be the most useless of them, Zopyrus the Thracian. I might describe to you at length the nurture and education of your competitors, were it not too much of a task; and besides, what I have said suffices to show the rest that follows thereon. But about your birth, Alcibiades, or nurture or education, or about those of any other Athenian, one may say that nobody cares, unless it be some lover whom you chance to have. And again, if you chose to glance at the wealth, the luxury, the robes with sweeping trains, the anointings with myrrh, the attendant troops of menials, and all the other refinements of the Persians, you would be ashamed at your own case, on perceiving its inferiority to theirs.

Should you choose, again, to look at the temperance and orderliness, the facility and placidity, the magnanimity and discipline, the courage and endurance, and the toil-loving, success-loving, honour-loving spirit of the Spartans, you would count yourself but a child in all these things. If again you regard wealth, and think yourself something in that way, I must not keep silence on this point either, if you are to realize where you stand. For in this respect you have only to look at the wealth of the Spartans, and you will perceive that our riches here are far inferior to theirs. Think of all the land that they have both in their own and in the Messenian country: not one of our estates could compete with theirs in extent and excellence, nor again in ownership of slaves, and especially of those of the helot class, nor yet of horses, nor of all the flocks and herds

Ε ὅσα ἄλλα βοσκήματα κατὰ Μεσσήνην νέμεται· ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν πάντα ἐὼ χαίρειν, χρυσίον δὲ καὶ ἀργύριον οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν πᾶσιν Ἑλλήσιν ὅσον ἐν Λακεδαιμόνι ἰδία· πολλὰς γὰρ ἤδη γενεὰς εἰσέρχεται μὲν αὐτόσε ἐξ ἀπάντων τῶν Ἑλλήνων, πολλακίς δὲ καὶ ἐκ τῶν βαρβάρων, ἐξέρχεται δὲ οὐδαμόσε, ἀλλ' ἀτεχνῶς κατὰ τὸν Αἰσώπου μῦθον,

123 ὃν ἡ ἀλώπηξ πρὸς τὸν λέοντα εἶπε, καὶ τοῦ εἰς Λακεδαιμόνα νομίσματος εἰσιόντος μὲν τὰ ἴχνη τὰ ἐκείσε τετραμμένα δῆλα, ἐξιόντος δὲ οὐδαμῆ ἂν τις ἴδοι ὥστε εὖ χρή εἰδέναί ὅτι καὶ χρυσῶ καὶ ἀργύρῳ οἱ ἐκεῖ πλουσιώτατοί εἰσι τῶν Ἑλλήνων, καὶ αὐτῶν ἐκείνων ὁ βασιλεύς· ἐκ τε γὰρ τῶν τοιούτων μέγιστα λήψεις καὶ πλεῖσταί εἰσι τοῖς

B βασιλεῦσιν, ἔτι δὲ καὶ ὁ βασιλικὸς φόρος οὐκ ὀλίγος γίνεταί, ὃν τελοῦσιν οἱ Λακεδαιμόνιοι τοῖς βασιλεῦσιν. καὶ τὰ μὲν Λακεδαιμονίων ὡς πρὸς Ἑλληνικοὺς μὲν πλούτους μεγάλα, ὡς δὲ πρὸς τοὺς Περσικοὺς καὶ τοῦ ἐκείνων βασιλέως οὐδέν· ἐπεὶ ποτ' ἐγὼ ἤκουσα ἀνδρὸς ἀξιοπίστου τῶν ἀναβεβηκότων παρὰ βασιλέα, ὃς ἔφη παρελθεῖν χώραν πάνυ πολλὴν καὶ ἀγαθὴν, ἐγγὺς ἡμερησίαν ὁδόν, ἣν καλεῖν τοὺς ἐπιχωρίους ζώνην τῆς βασιλέως γυναικός· εἶναι δὲ καὶ ἄλλην ἣν αὐτὸς καλεῖσθαι

C καλύπτραν, καὶ ἄλλους πολλοὺς τόπους καλοῦς καὶ ἀγαθοὺς εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἐξηρημένους τὸν τῆς γυναικός, καὶ ὀνόματα ἔχει ἐκάστους τῶν τόπων ἀπὸ ἐκάστου τῶν κόσμων· ὥστε οἶμαι ἐγώ, εἴ τις εἴποι τῇ βασιλέως μητρί, Ξέρξου δὲ γυναικί, Ἀμήστριδι, ὅτι ἐν νῶ ἔχει σοῦ τῶ υἱεῖ ἀντιτάττεσθαι ὁ Δεινομάχης υἱός, ἧ ἔστι κόσμος ἴσως ἄξιος μνῶν πεντήκοντα, εἰ πάνυ πολλοῦ, τῶ δ' υἱεῖ

## ALCIBIADES I

that graze in Messene. However, I pass over all these things : but there is more gold and silver privately held in Lacedaemon than in the whole of Greece ; for during many generations treasure has been passing in to them from every part of Greece, and often from the barbarians also, but not passing out to anyone ; and just as in the fable of Aesop, where the fox remarked to the lion on the direction of the footmarks, the traces of the money going into Lacedaemon are clear enough, but nowhere are any to be seen of it coming out ; so that one can be pretty sure that those people are the richest of the Greeks in gold and silver, and that among themselves the richest is the king ; for the largest and most numerous receipts of the kind are those of the kings, and besides there is the levy of the royal tribute in no slight amount, which the Spartans pay to their kings. Now, the Spartan fortunes, though great compared with the wealth of other Greeks, are nought beside that of the Persians and their king. For I myself was once told by a trustworthy person, who had been up to their court, that he traversed a very large tract of excellent land, nearly a day's journey, which the inhabitants called the girdle of the king's wife, and another which was similarly called her veil ; and many other fine and fertile regions reserved for the adornment of the consort ; and each of these regions was named after some part of her apparel. So I imagine, if someone should say to the king's mother Amestris, who was wife of Xerxes, "The son of Deinomache<sup>1</sup> intends to challenge your son ; the mother's dresses are worth perhaps fifty minae at the outside, while the son has under three hundred

<sup>1</sup> The mother of Alcibiades.

- αὐτῆς γῆς πλέθρα Ἐρχίασιν οὐδὲ τριακόσια, θαυμάσαι ἂν ὅτῳ ποτὲ πιστεύων ἐν νῶ ἔχει οὗτος
- D ὁ Ἀλκιβιάδης τῷ Ἀρτοξέρξῃ διαγωνίζεσθαι, καὶ οἶμαι ἂν αὐτὴν εἰπεῖν ὅτι οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅτῳ ἄλλῳ πιστεύων οὗτος ὁ ἀνὴρ ἐπιχειρεῖ πλήν ἐπιμελεία τε καὶ σοφία· ταῦτα γὰρ μόνα ἄξια λόγου ἐν Ἑλλησιν. ἐπεὶ εἴ γε πύθοιτο, ὅτι ὁ Ἀλκιβιάδης οὗτος νῦν ἐπιχειρεῖ πρῶτον μὲν ἔτη οὐδέπω γεγρονῶς σφόδρα εἴκοσιν, ἔπειτα παντάπασιν ἀπαίδευτος, πρὸς δὲ τούτοις, τοῦ ἔραστοῦ αὐτῷ λέγοντος ὅτι χρὴ πρῶτον μαθόντα καὶ ἐπιμεληθέντα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀσκήσαντα
- E οὕτως ἰέναι διαγωνιούμενον βασιλεῖ, οὐκ ἐθέλει, ἀλλὰ φησιν ἔξαρκεῖν καὶ ὡς ἔχει, οἶμαι ἂν αὐτὴν θαυμάσαι τε καὶ ἐρέσθαι· τί οὖν ποτ' ἔστιν ὅτῳ πιστεύει τὸ μειράκιον; εἰ οὖν λέγοιμεν ὅτι κάλλει τε καὶ μεγέθει καὶ γένει καὶ πλούτῳ καὶ φύσει τῆς ψυχῆς, ἡγήσαιοτ' ἂν ἡμᾶς, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, μαίνεσθαι πρὸς τὰ παρὰ σφίσιν ἀποβλέψασα πάντα τὰ τοιαῦτα. οἶμαι δὲ κἂν Λαμπιδῶ, τὴν Λεωτυχίδου μὲν θυγα-
- 124 τέρα, Ἀρχιδάμου δὲ γυναῖκα, Ἀγιδος δὲ μητέρα, οἳ πάντες βασιλεῖς γεγόνασι, θαυμάσαι ἂν καὶ ταύτην εἰς τὰ παρὰ σφίσιν ὑπάρχοντα ἀποβλέψασαν, εἰ σὺ ἐν νῶ ἔχεις τῷ υἱεῖ αὐτῆς διαγωνίζεσθαι οὕτω κακῶς ἡγμένος. καίτοι οὐκ αἰσχρὸν δοκεῖ εἶναι, εἰ αἱ τῶν πολεμίων γυναῖκες βέλτιον περὶ ἡμῶν διανοοῦνται, οἷους χρὴ ὄντας σφίσιν ἐπιχειρεῖν, ἢ ἡμεῖς περὶ ἡμῶν αὐτῶν; ἀλλ', ὦ μακάριε, πειθόμενος ἐμοί τε καὶ τῷ ἐν Δελφοῖς
- B γράμματι, γνῶθι σαυτόν, ὅτι οὗτοι εἰσὶν ἀντίπαλοι, ἀλλ' οὐχ οὖς σὺ οἶει· ὦν ἄλλῳ μὲν οὐδ' ἂν ἐνὶ περιγενοίμεθα, εἰ μὴ περ ἐπιμελεία τε ἂν καὶ

## ALCIBIADES I

acres at Erchia,<sup>1</sup>” she would wonder to what on earth this Alcibiades could be trusting, that he proposed to contend against Artaxerxes; and I expect she would remark—“The only possible things that the man can be trusting to for his enterprise are industry and wisdom; for these are the only things of any account among the Greeks.” Whereas if she were informed that this Alcibiades who is actually making such an attempt is, in the first place, as yet barely twenty years old, and secondly, altogether uneducated; and further, that when his lover tells him that he must first learn, and take pains over himself, and practise, before he enters on a contest with the king, he refuses, and says he will do very well as he is; I expect she would ask in surprise, “On what, then, can the youngster rely?” And if we told her, “On beauty, stature, birth, wealth, and mental gifts,” she would conclude we were mad, Alcibiades, when she compared the advantages of her own people in all these respects. And I imagine that even Lampido, daughter of Leotychides and wife of Archidamus and mother of Agis, who have all been kings, would wonder in the same way, when she compared her people’s resources, at your intention of having a contest with her son despite your bad upbringing. And yet, does it not strike you as disgraceful that our enemies’ wives should have a better idea of the qualities that we need for an attempt against them than we have ourselves? Ah, my remarkable friend, listen to me and the Delphic motto, *Know thyself*; for these people are our competitors, not those whom you think; and there is nothing that will give us ascendancy over them save

<sup>1</sup> In Attica, about fifteen miles east of Athens.

τέχνη. ὦν σὺ εἰ ἀπολειφθήσῃ, καὶ τοῦ ὀνόμαστός γενέσθαι ἀπολειφθήσῃ ἐν Ἑλλησὶ τε καὶ βαρβάροις, οὐ μοι δοκεῖς ἔρᾶν ὡς οὐδεὶς ἄλλος ἄλλου.

ΑΛΚ. Τίνα οὖν χρή τὴν ἐπιμέλειαν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ποιῆσθαι; ἔχεις ἐξηγήσασθαι; παντὸς γὰρ μᾶλλον ἔοικας ἀληθῆ εἰρηκότι.

ΣΩ. Ναί· ἀλλὰ γὰρ κοινὴ βουλή, ὧτινι τρόπῳ  
C ἂν ὄτι βέλτιστοι γενοίμεθα· ἐγὼ γάρ τοι οὐ περὶ  
μὲν σοῦ λέγω ὡς χρή παιδευθῆναι, περὶ ἐμοῦ δὲ  
οὐ· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅτῳ σου διαφέρω πλήν γε ἐνί.

ΑΛΚ. Τίνι;

ΣΩ. Ὁ ἐπίτροπος ὁ ἐμὸς βελτίων ἐστὶ καὶ  
σοφώτερος ἢ Περικλῆς ὁ σός.

ΑΛΚ. Τίς οὗτος, ὦ Σώκρατες;

ΣΩ. Θεός, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, ὅσπερ σοί με οὐκ εἶα  
πρὸ τῆσδε τῆς ἡμέρας διαλεχθῆναι· ὦ καὶ πι-  
στεύων λέγω, ὅτι ἡ ἐπιφάνεια δι' οὐδενὸς ἄλλου  
σοι ἔσται ἢ δι' ἐμοῦ.

D ΑΛΚ. Παίζεις, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Ἴσως· λέγω μέντοι ἀληθῆ, ὅτι ἐπιμελείας  
δεόμεθα, μᾶλλον μὲν πάντες ἄνθρωποι, ἀτὰρ νῶ  
γε καὶ μάλα σφόδρα.

ΑΛΚ. Ὅτι μὲν ἐγώ, οὐ ψεύδῃ.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲ μὴν ὅτι γ' ἐγώ.

ΑΛΚ. Τί οὖν ἂν ποιῶμεν;

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἀπορρητέον οὐδὲ μαλακιστέον, ὦ ἑταῖρε.

ΑΛΚ. Οὗτοι δὴ πρέπει γε, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Οὐ γάρ, ἀλλὰ σκεπτέον κοινῆ. καὶ μοι λέγε·

<sup>1</sup> Cf. above, 119 B.

## ALCIBIADES I

only pains and skill. If you are found wanting in these, you will be found wanting also in achievement of renown among Greeks and barbarians both; and of this I observe you to be more enamoured than anyone else ever was of anything.

ALC. Well then, what are the pains that I must take, Socrates? Can you enlighten me? For I must say your words are remarkably like the truth.

SOC. Yes, I can: but we must put our heads together,<sup>1</sup> you know, as to the way in which we can improve ourselves to the utmost. For observe that when I speak of the need of being educated I am not referring only to you, apart from myself; since my case is identical with yours except in one point.

ALC. What is that?

SOC. My guardian is better and wiser than your one, Pericles.

ALC. Who is he, Socrates?

SOC. God, Alcibiades, who until this day would not let me converse with you; and trusting in him I say that through no other man but me will you attain to eminence.

ALC. You are jesting, Socrates.

SOC. Perhaps; I am right, however, in saying that we need to take pains—all men rather badly, but we two very badly indeed.

ALC. As to me, you are not wrong.

SOC. Nor, I fear, as to myself either.

ALC. Then what can we do?

SOC. There must be no crying off or skulking, my good friend.

ALC. No, for that would indeed be unseemly, Socrates.

SOC. It would; so let us consider in common.

Ε φαμέν γάρ δὴ ὡς ἄριστοι βούλεσθαι γενέσθαι. ἦ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τίνα ἀρετήν;

ΑΛΚ. Δῆλον ὅτι ἦνπερ οἱ ἄνδρες οἱ ἀγαθοί.

ΣΩ. Οἱ τί ἀγαθοί;

ΑΛΚ. Δῆλον ὅτι οἱ πράττειν τὰ πράγματα.

ΣΩ. Ποῖα; ἄρα τὰ ἵππικά;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Παρὰ τοὺς ἵππικοὺς γὰρ ἂν ἦμεν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ τὰ ναυτικὰ λέγεις;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ.

ΣΩ. Παρὰ τοὺς ναυτικοὺς γὰρ ἂν ἦμεν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ ποῖα; ἂ τίνες πράττουσιν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἄπερ Ἀθηναίων οἱ καλοὶ κάγαθοί.

125 ΣΩ. Καλοὺς δὲ κάγαθοὺς λέγεις τοὺς φρονίμους ἢ τοὺς ἀφρονας;

ΑΛΚ. Τοὺς φρονίμους.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὁ ἕκαστος φρόνιμος, τοῦτο ἀγαθός;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ὁ δὲ ἀφρων, πονηρός;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν ὁ σκυτοτόμος φρόνιμος εἰς ὑποδημάτων ἐργασίαν;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἀγαθὸς ἄρα εἰς αὐτά;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀγαθός.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; εἰς ἱματίων ἐργασίαν οὐκ ἀφρων ὁ σκυτοτόμος;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.



## ALCIBIADES I

Now tell me : we say, do we not, that we wish to be as good as possible ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. In what excellence ?

ALC. Clearly that which is the aim of good men.

soc. Good in what ?

ALC. Clearly, good in the management of affairs.

soc. What sort of affairs ? Horsemanship ?

ALC. No, no.

soc. Because we should apply to horsemen ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Well, seamanship, do you mean ?

ALC. No.

soc. Because we should apply to seamen ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Well, what sort of thing ? The business of what men ?

ALC. Of Athenian gentlemen.

soc. Do you mean by " gentlemen " the intelligent or the unintelligent ?

ALC. The intelligent.

soc. And everyone is good in that wherein he is intelligent ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And bad wherein he is unintelligent ?

ALC. Of course.

soc. Then is the shoemaker intelligent in the making of foot-gear ?

ALC. Certainly.

soc. So he is good in that article ?

ALC. Good.

soc. Well now, is not the shoemaker unintelligent in the making of clothes ?

ALC. Yes.

PLATO

- B    σν. Κακὸς ἄρα εἰς τοῦτο;  
       αλκ. Ναί.  
       σν. Ὁ αὐτὸς ἄρα τούτῳ γε τῷ λόγῳ κακὸς τε  
 καὶ ἀγαθός.  
       αλκ. Φαίνεται.  
       σν. Ἡ οὖν λέγεις τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς ἄνδρας εἶναι  
 καὶ κακοὺς;  
       αλκ. Οὐ δῆτα.  
       σν. Ἀλλὰ τίνας ποτὲ τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς λέγεις;  
       αλκ. Τοὺς δυναμένους ἔγωγε ἄρχειν ἐν τῇ πόλει.  
       σν. Οὐ δήπου ἵππων γε;  
       αλκ. Οὐ δῆτα.  
       σν. Ἀλλ' ἀνθρώπων;  
       αλκ. Ναί.  
       σν. Ἄρα καμνόντων;  
       αλκ. Οὔ.  
       σν. Ἀλλὰ πλεόντων;  
       αλκ. Οὔ φημι.  
       σν. Ἀλλὰ θεριζόντων;  
       αλκ. Οὔ.  
 C    σν. Ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ποιούντων ἢ τι ποιούντων;  
       αλκ. Ποιούντων λέγω.  
       σν. Τί; πειρῶ καὶ ἐμοὶ δηλῶσαι.  
       αλκ. Οὐκοῦν τῶν καὶ συμβαλλόντων ἑαυτοῖς  
 καὶ χρωμένων ἀλλήλοις, ὥσπερ ἡμεῖς ζῶμεν ἐν  
 ταῖς πόλεσιν.  
       σν. Οὐκοῦν ἀνθρώπων λέγεις ἄρχειν ἀνθρώποις  
 χρωμένων;  
       αλκ. Ναί.  
       σν. Ἄρα κελευστῶν χρωμένων ἐρέταις;  
       αλκ. Οὐ δῆτα.  
       σν. Κυβερνητικὴ γὰρ αὕτη γε ἀρετή;

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. So he is bad in that ?

alc. Yes.

soc. Then, on this showing, the same man is both bad and good.

alc. Apparently.

soc. Well, can you say that good men are also bad ?

alc. No, indeed.

soc. But whoever do you mean by the good ?

alc. I mean those who are able to rule in the city.

soc. Not, I presume, over horses ?

alc. No, no.

soc. But over men ?

alc. Yes.

soc. When they are sick ?

alc. No.

soc. Or at sea ?

alc. I say, no.

soc. Or harvesting ?

alc. No.

soc. Doing nothing, or doing something ?

alc. Doing something, I say.

soc. Doing what ? Try and let me know.

alc. Well, men who do business with each other and make use of one another, as is our way of life in our cities.

soc. Then you speak of ruling over men who make use of men ?

alc. Yes.

soc. Over boatswains who make use of rowers ?

alc. No, no.

soc. Because that is the pilot's distinction ?

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἀνθρώπων λέγεις ἄρχειν αὐλητῶν,  
D ἀνθρώποις ἡγουμένων ὠδῆς καὶ χρωμένων χορευ-  
ταῖς;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτά.

ΣΩ. Χοροδιδασκαλικὴ γὰρ αὕτη γ' αὖ;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ τί ποτε λέγεις χρωμένων ἀνθρώπων  
ἀνθρώποις οἷόν τ' εἶναι ἄρχειν;

ΑΛΚ. Κοινωνούντων ἔγωγε λέγω πολιτείας καὶ  
συμβαλλόντων πρὸς ἀλλήλους, τούτων ἄρχειν τῶν  
ἐν τῇ πόλει.

ΣΩ. Τίς οὖν αὕτη ἡ τέχνη; ὥσπερ ἂν εἶ σε  
ἐροίμην πάλιν τὰ νῦν δῆ, κοινωνούντων ναυτιλίας  
ἐπίστασθαι ἄρχειν τίς ποιεῖ τέχνη;

ΑΛΚ. Κυβερνητική.

E ΣΩ. Κοινωνούντων δὲ ὠδῆς, ὡς νῦν δῆ ἐλέγετο,  
τίς ἐπιστήμη ποιεῖ ἄρχειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἦνπερ σὺ ἄρτι ἔλεγες, ἡ χοροδιδασκαλία.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; πολιτείας κοινωνούντων τίνα καλεῖς  
ἐπιστήμην;

ΑΛΚ. Εὐβουλίαν ἔγωγε, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; μῶν ἀβουλία δοκεῖ εἶναι ἡ τῶν κυ-  
βερνητῶν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' εὐβουλία;

126 ΑΛΚ. Ἦμοιγε δοκεῖ, εἷς γε τὸ σῶζεσθαι πλείοντας.

ΣΩ. Καλῶς λέγεις. τί δέ; ἦν σὺ λέγεις εὐ-  
βουλίαν, εἰς τί ἐστιν;

ΑΛΚ. Εἰς τὸ ἀμεινον τὴν πόλιν διοικεῖν καὶ  
σῶζεσθαι.

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ALC. Yes.

soc. Well, do you mean ruling over men who are flute-players, and who lead the singing and make use of dancers ?

ALC. No, no.

soc. Because, again, that is the chorus-teacher's function ?

ALC. To be sure.

soc. But whatever do you mean by being able to rule over men who make use of men ?

ALC. I mean ruling over men in the city who share in it as fellow-citizens, and do business with each other.

soc. Well, what art is this ? Suppose I should ask you over again, as I did just now, what art makes men know how to rule over fellow-sailors ?

ALC. The pilot's.

soc. And what knowledge—to repeat what was said a moment ago—makes them rule over their fellow-singers ?

ALC. That which you just mentioned, the chorus-teacher's.

soc. Well now, what do you call the knowledge of one's fellow-citizens ?

ALC. Good counsel, I should say, Socrates.

soc. Well, and is the pilot's knowledge evil counsel ?

ALC. No, no.

soc. Rather good counsel ?

ALC. So I should think, for the preservation of his passengers.

soc. Quite right. And now, for what is the good counsel of which you speak ?

ALC. For the better management and preservation of the city.

## PLATO

ΣΩ. "Ἄμεινον δὲ διοικεῖται καὶ σώζεται τίνος παραγιγνομένου ἢ ἀπογιγνομένου; ὡςπερ ἂν εἰ σύ με ἔροιο· ἄμεινον διοικεῖται σῶμα καὶ σώζεται τίνος παραγιγνομένου ἢ ἀπογιγνομένου; εἴποιμ' ἂν ὅτι ὑγείας μὲν παραγιγνομένης, νόσου δὲ ἀπογιγνομένης. οὐ καὶ σὺ οἶε οὕτως;

Β ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Καὶ εἴ με αὖ ἔροιο· τίνος δὲ παραγιγνομένου ἄμεινον ὄμματα; ὡσαύτως εἴποιμ' ἂν ὅτι ὄψεως μὲν παραγιγνομένης, τυφλότητος δὲ ἀπογιγνομένης. καὶ ὠτα δὲ κωφότητος μὲν ἀπογιγνομένης, ἀκοῆς δὲ ἐγγιγνομένης βελτίω τε γίγνεται καὶ ἄμεινον θεραπεύεται.

ΑΛΚ. Ὅρθῶς.

ΣΩ. Τί δὲ δὴ; πόλις τίνος παραγιγνομένου καὶ ἀπογιγνομένου βελτίων τε γίγνεται καὶ ἄμεινον θεραπεύεται καὶ διοικεῖται;

Γ ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοὶ μὲν δοκεῖ, ὦ Σώκρατες, ὅταν φιλία μὲν αὐτοῖς γίγνηται πρὸς ἀλλήλους, τὸ μισεῖν δὲ καὶ στασιάζειν ἀπογίγνηται.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν φιλίαν λέγεις ὁμόνοιαν ἢ διχόνοιαν;

ΑΛΚ. Ὅμόνοιαν.

ΣΩ. Διὰ τίνα οὖν τέχνην ὁμονοοῦσιν αἱ πόλεις περὶ ἀριθμούς;

ΑΛΚ. Διὰ τὴν ἀριθμητικὴν.

ΣΩ. Τί δὲ οἱ ἰδιῶται; οὐ διὰ τὴν αὐτὴν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ αὐτὸς αὐτῷ ἕκαστος;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And what is it that becomes present or absent when we get this better management and preservation? If, for example, you should ask me, "What is it that becomes present or absent when the body is better managed and preserved?"—I should reply, "Health becomes present, and disease absent." Do not you think so too?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And if, again, you asked me, "What becomes present in a better condition of the eyes?"—I should answer in just the same way, "Sight becomes present, and blindness absent." So, in the case of the ears, deafness is caused to be absent, and hearing to be present, when they are improved and getting better treatment.

ALC. Correct.

soc. Well then, what is it that becomes present or absent when a state is improved and has better treatment and management?

ALC. To my mind, Socrates, friendship with one another will be there, while hatred and faction will be absent.

soc. Now, by friendship do you mean agreement or disagreement?

ALC. Agreement.

soc. And what art is it that causes states to agree about numbers?

ALC. Arithmetic.

soc. And what of individuals? Is it not the same art?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And it makes each single person agree with himself?

ALC. Yes.

ΣΩ. Διὰ τίνα δὲ τέχνην ἕκαστος αὐτὸς αὐτῷ  
D ὁμοιοεῖ περὶ σπιθαμῆς καὶ πήχεος, ὁπότερον  
μείζον; οὐ διὰ τὴν μετρητικὴν;

ΑΛΚ. Τί μήν;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ οἱ ἰδιῶται ἀλλήλοις καὶ αἱ  
πόλεις;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τί δὲ περὶ σταθμοῦ; οὐχ ὡσαύτως;

ΑΛΚ. Φημί.

ΣΩ. Ἦν δὲ δὴ σὺ λέγεις ὁμόνοιαν, τίς ἐστὶ καὶ  
περὶ τοῦ, καὶ τίς αὐτὴν τέχνη παρασκευάζει; καὶ  
ἄρα ἤπερ πόλει, αὕτη καὶ ἰδιώτη, αὐτῷ τε πρὸς  
αὐτὸν καὶ πρὸς ἄλλον;

ΑΛΚ. Εἰκός γέ τοι.

ΣΩ. Τίς οὖν ἐστὶ; μὴ κάμης ἀποκρινόμενος,  
E ἀλλὰ προθυμοῦ εἰπεῖν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγὼ μὲν οἶμαι φιλίαν τε λέγειν καὶ ὁμό-  
νοιαν, ἣνπερ πατήρ τε υἱὸν φιλῶν ὁμοιοεῖ καὶ  
μήτηρ, καὶ ἀδελφὸς ἀδελφῷ καὶ γυνὴ ἀνδρί.

ΣΩ. Οἶει ἂν οὖν, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, ἄνδρα γυναικὶ  
περὶ ταλασιουργίας δύνασθαι ὁμοιοεῖν, τὸν μὴ  
ἐπιστάμενον τῇ ἐπισταμένῃ;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐδέ γε δεῖ οὐδέν· γυναικεῖον γὰρ τοῦτό γε  
μάθημα.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

127 ΣΩ. Τί δέ; γυνὴ ἀνδρὶ περὶ ὀπλιτικῆς δύναται  
ἂν ὁμοιοεῖν μὴ μαθοῦσα;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἄνδρεῖον γὰρ τοῦτο γε ἴσως αὐ φαίης ἂν  
εἶναι.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.



## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And what art makes each of us agree with himself as to which is the longer, a span or a cubit? Is it not mensuration?

ALC. Of course.

soc. And it makes both individuals and states agree with each other?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And what about the balance? Is it not the same here too?

ALC. It is.

soc. Then what is that agreement of which you speak, and about what? And what art secures it? And is it the same in an individual as in a state, when one agrees with oneself and with another?

ALC. Most likely.

soc. Well, what is it? Do not flag in your answers, but do your best to tell me.

ALC. I suppose I mean the friendship and agreement that you find when a father and mother love their son, and between brother and brother, and husband and wife.

soc. Then do you suppose, Alcibiades, that a husband can possibly agree with his wife about wool-work, when he does not understand it, and she does?

ALC. Oh, no.

soc. Nor has he any need, since that is a woman's pursuit.

ALC. Yes.

soc. Or again, could a woman agree with a man about soldiering, when she has not learnt it?

ALC. Oh, no.

soc. Because, I expect you will say again, that is a man's affair.

ALC. I would.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Ἔστιν ἄρα τὰ μὲν γυναικεῖα, τὰ δὲ ἀνδρεῖα μαθήματα κατὰ τὸν σὸν λόγον.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δ' οὐ;

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα ἐν γε τούτοις ἐστὶν ὁμόνοια γυναιξὶ πρὸς ἀνδρας.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ.

ΣΩ. Οὐδ' ἄρα φιλία, εἴπερ ἢ φιλία ὁμόνοια ἦν.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Ἡ ἄρα αἱ γυναῖκες τὰ αὐτῶν πράττουσιν, οὐ φιλοῦνται ὑπὸ τῶν ἀνδρῶν.

Β ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔοικεν.

ΣΩ. Οὐδ' ἄρα οἱ ἄνδρες ὑπὸ τῶν γυναικῶν, ἢ τὰ αὐτῶν.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ.

ΣΩ. Οὐδ' εὖ<sup>1</sup> ἄρα ταύτῃ οἰκοῦνται αἱ πόλεις, ὅταν τὰ αὐτῶν ἕκαστοι πράττωσιν;

ΑΛΚ. Οἶμαι ἔγωγε, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Πῶς λέγεις, φιλίας μὴ παρούσης, ἥς φημὲν γιγνομένης εὖ οἰκεῖσθαι τὰς πόλεις, ἄλλως δὲ οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀλλά μοι δοκεῖ καὶ κατὰ τοῦτο αὐτοῖς φιλία ἐγγίγνεσθαι, ὅτι τὰ αὐτῶν ἐκάτεροι πράττουσιν.

Γ ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρτι γε· νῦν δὲ πῶς αὖ λέγεις; ὁμονοίας μὴ ἐγγιγνομένης φιλία ἐγγίγνεται; ἢ οἷόν θ' ὁμόνοιαν ἐγγίγνεσθαι ὧν οἱ μὲν ἴσασι περὶ τούτων, οἱ δ' οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀδύνατον.

ΣΩ. Δίκαια δὲ πράττουσιν ἢ ἄδικα, ὅταν τὰ αὐτῶν ἕκαστοι πράττωσιν;

ΑΛΚ. Δίκαιά· πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

<sup>1</sup> εὖ Olympiodorus: αὖ MSS.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. Then, by your account, there are some pursuits belonging to women, and some to men ?

ALC. Of course.

soc. So in these, at any rate, there is no agreement between men and women.

ALC. No.

soc. And hence no friendship either, if, as we said, friendship is agreement.

ALC. Apparently not.

soc. So women are not loved by men, in so far as they do their own work.

ALC. It seems not.

soc. Nor are men by women, in so far as they do theirs.

ALC. No.

soc. And states, therefore, are not well ordered in so far as each person does his own business ? <sup>1</sup>

ALC. I think they are, Socrates.

soc. How can you say that ? Without the presence of friendship, which we say must be there if states are well ordered, as otherwise they are not ?

ALC. But it seems to me that friendship arises among them just on that account—that each of the two parties does its own business.

soc. It was not so a moment since : but now, what do you mean this time ? Does friendship arise where there is no agreement ? And is it possible that agreement should arise where some know about the business, but others do not ?

ALC. Impossible.

soc. And are they doing what is just or unjust, when each man does his own business ?

ALC. What is just, of course.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Charm.* 161 E, *Rep.* i. 332 ff.

ΣΩ. Τὰ δίκαια οὖν πραττόντων ἐν τῇ πόλει τῶν πολιτῶν φιλία οὐκ ἐγγίγνεται πρὸς ἀλλήλους;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη αὐ μοι δοκεῖ εἶναι, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Τίνα οὖν ποτὲ λέγεις τὴν φιλίαν ἢ ὁμόνοιαν, ἢ περὶ ἧς δεῖ ἡμᾶς σοφούς τε εἶναι καὶ εὐβούλους, ἵνα ἀγαθοὶ ἄνδρες ὦμεν; οὐ γὰρ δύναμαι μαθεῖν οὐθ' ἥτις οὐτ' ἐν οἰστίσι· τοτὲ μὲν γὰρ ἐν τοῖς αὐτοῖς φαίνεται ἐνοῦσα, τοτὲ δ' οὐ, ὡς ἐκ τοῦ σοῦ λόγου.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀλλὰ μὰ τοὺς θεούς, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐδ' αὐτὸς οἶδα ὅ τι λέγω, κινδυνεύω δὲ καὶ πάσαι λεληθῆναι ἐμαυτὸν αἰσχιστα ἔχων.

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ χρὴ θαρρεῖν. εἰ μὲν γὰρ αὐτὸ ἦσθου Ἐπεπονηθὼς πεντηκονταετής, χαλεπὸν ἂν ἦν σοι ἐπιμεληθῆναι σαυτοῦ· νῦν δὲ ἦν ἔχεις ἡλικίαν, αὕτη ἐστὶν ἐν ἧ δεῖ αὐτὸ αἰσθῆσθαι.

ΑΛΚ. Τί οὖν τὸν αἰσθανόμενον χρὴ ποιεῖν, ὦ Σώκρατες;

ΣΩ. Ἀποκρίνεσθαι τὰ ἐρωτώμενα, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδῃ· καὶ εἰς τοῦτο ποιῆς, ἂν θεὸς θέλῃ, εἴ τι δεῖ καὶ τῇ ἐμῇ μαντεία πιστεύειν, σύ τε καὶ γὰρ βέλτιον σχήσομεν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἔσται ταῦτα ἕνεκά γε τοῦ ἐμὲ ἀποκρίνεσθαι.

ΣΩ. Φέρε δὴ, τί ἐστὶ τὸ ἑαυτοῦ ἐπιμελεῖσθαι  
128 — μὴ πολλάκις λάθωμεν οὐχ ἡμῶν αὐτῶν ἐπιμελούμενοι, οἴομενοι δέ—καὶ πότε ἄρα αὐτὸ ποιεῖ ἄνθρωπος; ἄρα ὅταν τῶν αὐτοῦ ἐπιμελῆται, τότε καὶ ἑαυτοῦ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοὶ γοῦν δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; ποδῶν ἄνθρωπος πότε ἐπιμελεῖται; ἄρ' ὅταν ἐκείνων ἐπιμελῆται ἃ ἐστὶ τῶν ποδῶν;

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And when the citizens do what is just in the city, does not friendship arise among them ?

ALC. Again I think that must be so, Socrates.

soc. Then whatever do you mean by that friendship or agreement about which we must be wise and well-advised in order that we may be good men ? For I am unable to learn either what it is, or in whom ; since it appears that the same persons sometimes have it, and sometimes not, by your account.

ALC. Well, by Heaven, Socrates, I do not even know what I mean myself, and I fear that for some time past I have lived unawares in a disgraceful condition.

soc. But you must take heart. For had you perceived your plight at fifty, it would be hard for you to take pains with yourself ; whereas here you are at the time of life when one ought to perceive it.

ALC. Then what should one do on perceiving it, Socrates ?

soc. Answer the questions asked, Alcibiades : only do that, and with Heaven's favour—if we are to put any trust in *my* divination—you and I shall both be in better case.

ALC. That shall be, so far as my answering can avail.

soc. Come then, what is "taking pains over oneself"—for we may perchance be taking, unawares, no pains over ourselves, though we think we are—and when does a man actually do it ? Does he take pains over himself at the same time as over his own things ?

ALC. I at least believe so.

soc. Well now, when does a man take pains over his feet ? Is it when he takes pains over what belongs to his feet ?

PLATO

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μανθάνω.

ΣΩ. Καλεῖς δέ τι χειρός; οἷον δακτύλιον ἔστιν ὅτου ἂν ἄλλου τῶν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου φαίης ἢ δακτύλου;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ποδὸς ὑπόδημα τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Καὶ ἱμάτια καὶ στρώματα τοῦ ἄλλου σώματος ὁμοίως;

Β ΑΛΚ. Ναί.<sup>1</sup>

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν ὅταν ὑποδημάτων ἐπιμελώμεθα, τότε ποδῶν ἐπιμελούμεθα;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ πάνυ μανθάνω, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη; ὀρθῶς ἐπιμελεῖσθαι καλεῖς τι ὅτουοῦν πράγματος;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν ὅταν τίς τι βέλτιον ποιῇ, τότε ὀρθῆν λέγεις ἐπιμέλειαν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τίς οὖν τέχνη ὑποδήματα βελτίω ποιεῖ;

ΑΛΚ. Σκυτική.

ΣΩ. Σκυτικῇ ἄρα ὑποδημάτων ἐπιμελούμεθα;

Γ ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἡ καὶ ποδὸς σκυτικῇ; ἢ ἐκείνη ἢ πόδας βελτίους ποιούμεν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐκείνη.

ΣΩ. Βελτίους δὲ πόδας οὐχ ἤπερ καὶ τὸ ἄλλο σῶμα;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Αὕτη δ' οὐ γυμναστική;

ΑΛΚ. Μάλιστα.

<sup>1</sup> καὶ ἱμάτια . . . καὶ Stobaeus: om. mss.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. I do not understand.

soc. Is there anything you can name as belonging to the hand? For instance, does a ring belong to any other part of a man but the finger?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. And so the shoe also belongs to the foot, in the same way?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And likewise clothes and coverlets belong to the whole body?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Now when we take pains over our shoes, we take pains over our feet?

ALC. I do not quite understand, Socrates.

soc. Well, but, Alcibiades, you speak of taking proper pains over this or that matter, do you not?

ALC. I do.

soc. And do you call it proper pains when someone makes a thing better?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then what art makes shoes better?

ALC. Shoe-making.

soc. So by shoe-making we take pains over our shoes?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And over our foot too by shoe-making? Or by that art whereby we make feet better?

ALC. By that art.

soc. And is it not the same one for making our feet as for making the whole body better?

ALC. I think so.

soc. And is not that gymnastic?

ALC. Certainly.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Γυμναστικῇ μὲν ἄρα ποδὸς ἐπιμελούμεθα, σκυτικῇ δὲ τῶν τοῦ ποδός;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Καὶ γυμναστικῇ μὲν χειρῶν, δακτυλιογλυφία δὲ τῶν τῆς χειρός;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Καὶ γυμναστικῇ μὲν σώματος, ὑφαντικῇ δὲ  
D καὶ ταῖς ἄλλαις τῶν τοῦ σώματος;

ΑΛΚ. Παντάπασι μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλη μὲν ἄρα τέχνη αὐτοῦ ἐκάστου ἐπιμελούμεθα, ἄλλη δὲ τῶν αὐτοῦ.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα ὅταν τῶν σαυτοῦ ἐπιμελῇ, σαυτοῦ ἐπιμελῇ.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐδαμῶς.

ΣΩ. Οὐ γὰρ ἡ αὐτὴ τέχνη, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἧ̃ τις ἂν αὐτοῦ τε ἐπιμελοῖτο καὶ τῶν αὐτοῦ.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Φέρε δῆ, ποῖα ποτ' ἂν ἡμῶν αὐτῶν ἐπιμεληθεῖμεν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔχω λέγειν.

E ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ τοσόνδε γε ὠμολόγηται, ὅτι οὐχ ἧ̃ ἂν τῶν ἡμετέρων καὶ ὀτιοῦν βέλτιον ποιοῖμεν, ἀλλ' ἧ̃ ἡμᾶς αὐτούς;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ἡ οὖν ἔγνωμεν ἂν ποτε, τίς τέχνη ὑπόδημα βέλτιον ποιεῖ, μὴ εἰδότες ὑπόδημα;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀδύνατον.

ΣΩ. Οὐδέ γε τίς τέχνη δακτυλίου βελτίους ποιεῖ, ἀγνοοῦντες δακτύλιον.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ.



## ALCIBIADES I

soc. So by gymnastic we take pains over our foot, but by shoe-making over what belongs to our foot?

ALC. Quite so.

soc. And by gymnastic over our hands, but by ring-engraving over what belongs to the hand?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And by gymnastic over the body, but by weaving and the rest over what belongs to the body?

ALC. Absolutely so.

soc. Then for taking pains over a thing itself and over what belongs to it we use different arts.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. So when you take pains over your belongings you are not taking pains over yourself.

ALC. Not at all.

soc. For the arts, it seems, that one used for taking pains over oneself and over one's belongings would not be the same.

ALC. Apparently not.

soc. Come then, whatever kind of art can we use for taking pains over ourselves?

ALC. I cannot say.

soc. Well, so much at least has been admitted, that it is not one which would help us to make a single one of our possessions better, but one which would help to make ourselves so?

ALC. That is true.

soc. Now, should we ever have known what art makes a shoe better, if we had not known a shoe?

ALC. Impossible.

soc. Nor could we know what art makes rings better, if we had no cognizance of a ring.

ALC. True.

129 ΣΩ. Τί δέ; τίς τέχνη βελτίω ποιεῖ αὐτόν, ἄρ' ἂν ποτε γνοῖμεν ἀγνοοῦντες τί ποτ' ἐσμὲν αὐτοί;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀδύνατον.

ΣΩ. Πότερον οὖν δὴ ῥάδιον τυγχάνει τὸ γνῶναι ἑαυτόν, καὶ τις ἦν φαῦλος ὁ τοῦτο ἀναθεὶς εἰς τὸν ἐν Πυθοῖ νεών, ἢ χαλεπὸν τι καὶ οὐχὶ παντός;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοὶ μὲν, ὦ Σώκρατες, πολλάκις μὲν ἔδοξε παντός εἶναι, πολλάκις δὲ παγχάλεπον.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ', ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδῃ, εἴτε ῥάδιον εἴτε μὴ ἔστιν, ὅμως γε ἡμῖν ὧδ' ἔχει· γνόντες μὲν αὐτὸ τάχ' ἂν γνοίημεν τὴν ἐπιμέλειαν ἡμῶν αὐτῶν, ἀγνοοῦντες δὲ οὐκ ἂν ποτε.

ΑΛΚ. Ἔστι ταῦτα.

B ΣΩ. Φέρε δὴ, τίν' ἂν τρόπον εὔρεθείη αὐτὸ ταυτό; οὕτω μὲν γὰρ ἂν τάχ' εὔροιμεν τί ποτ' ἐσμὲν αὐτοί, τούτου δὲ ἔτι ὄντες ἐν ἀγνοίᾳ ἀδύνατοί που.

ΑΛΚ. Ὅρθῶς λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ἐχε οὖν πρὸς Διός. τῷ διαλέγει σὺ νῦν; ἄλλο τι ἢ ἐμοί;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἐγὼ σοί;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Σωκράτης ἄρα ἐστὶν ὁ διαλεγόμενος;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἀλκιβιάδης δὲ ὁ ἀκούων;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν λόγῳ διαλέγεται ὁ Σωκράτης;

C ΑΛΚ. Τί μήν;

<sup>1</sup> This seems to be a sudden adumbration of the Platonic "idea" or form which remains constant, and so "the same,"

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. Well then, could we ever know what art makes the man himself better, if we were ignorant of what we are ourselves ?

ALC. Impossible.

soc. Well, and is it an easy thing to know oneself, and was it a mere scamp who inscribed these words on the temple at Delphi ; or is it a hard thing, and not a task for anybody ?

ALC. I have often thought, Socrates, that it was for anybody ; but often, too, that it was very hard.

soc. But, Alcibiades, whether it is easy or not, here is the fact for us all the same : if we have that knowledge, we are like to know what pains to take over ourselves ; but if we have it not, we never can.

ALC. That is so.

soc. Come then, in what way can the same-in-itself<sup>1</sup> be discovered ? For thus we may discover what we are ourselves ; whereas if we remain in ignorance of it we must surely fail.

ALC. Rightly spoken.

soc. Steady, then, in Heaven's name ! To whom are you talking now ? To me, are you not ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And I in turn to you ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then the talker is Socrates ?

ALC. To be sure.

soc. And the hearer, Alcibiades ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And Socrates uses speech in talking ?

ALC. Of course.

behind the shifting objects of sense related to it through its influence or impress. Cf. below, 130 D.

## PLATO

ΣΩ. Τὸ δὲ διαλέγεσθαι καὶ τὸ λόγῳ χρῆσθαι ταυτόν που καλεῖς.

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ὁ δὲ χρώμενος καὶ ᾧ χρῆται οὐκ ἄλλο;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς λέγεις;

ΣΩ. Ὡσπερ σκυτοτόμος τέμνει που τομεῖ καὶ σμίλη καὶ ἄλλοις ὄργανοις.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἄλλο μὲν ὁ τέμνων καὶ χρώμενος, ἄλλο δὲ οἷς τέμνων χρῆται;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὔ;

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν οὕτως καὶ οἷς ὁ κιθαριστῆς κιθαρίζει καὶ αὐτὸς ὁ κιθαριστῆς ἄλλο ἂν εἶη;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τοῦτο τοίνυν ἀρτίως ἠρώτων, εἰ ὁ χρώμενος  
D καὶ ᾧ χρῆται ἀεὶ δοκεῖ ἕτερον εἶναι.

ΑΛΚ. Δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν φῶμεν τὸν σκυτοτόμον; τέμνει ὄργανοις μόνον ἢ καὶ χερσίν;

ΑΛΚ. Καὶ χερσίν.

ΣΩ. Χρῆται ἄρα καὶ ταύταις;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἡ καὶ τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς χρώμενος σκυτοτομεῖ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τὸν δὲ χρώμενον καὶ οἷς χρῆται ἕτερα ὁμολογοῦμεν;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐτερον ἄρα σκυτοτόμος καὶ κιθαριστῆς  
E χειρῶν καὶ ὀφθαλμῶν οἷς ἐργάζονται;

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And you call talking and using speech the same thing, I suppose.

ALC. To be sure.

soc. But the user and the thing he uses are different, are they not ?

ALC. How do you mean ?

soc. For instance, I suppose a shoemaker uses a round tool, and a square one, and others, when he cuts.

ALC. Yes.

soc. And the cutter and user is quite different from what he uses in cutting ?

ALC. Of course.

soc. And in the same way what the harper uses in harping will be different from the harper himself ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Well then, that is what I was asking just now — whether the user and what he uses are always, in your opinion, two different things.

ALC. They are.

soc. Then what are we to say of the shoemaker ? Does he cut with his tools only, or with his hands as well ?

ALC. With his hands as well.

soc. So he uses these also ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Does he use his eyes, too, in his shoe-making ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And we admit that the user and what he uses are different things ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then the shoemaker and the harper are different from the hands and eyes that they use for their work ?

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ παντὶ τῷ σώματι χρῆται ἄνθρωπος;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἐτερον δ' ἦν τό τε χρώμενον καὶ ᾧ χρῆται;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐτερον ἄρα ἄνθρωπός ἐστι τοῦ σώματος τοῦ ἑαυτοῦ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐοικεν.

ΣΩ. Τί ποτ' οὖν ὁ ἄνθρωπος;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔχω λέγειν.

ΣΩ. Ἐχεις μὲν οὖν, ὅτι γε τὸ τῷ σώματι χρώμενον.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

130 ΣΩ. Ἡ οὖν ἄλλο τι χρῆται αὐτῷ ἢ ψυχῇ;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἄλλο.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἄρχουσα;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Καὶ μὴν τόδε γε οἶμαι οὐδένα ἂν ἄλλως οἰηθῆναι.

ΑΛΚ. Τὸ ποῖον;

ΣΩ. Μὴ οὐ τριῶν ἔν γέ τι εἶναι τὸν ἄνθρωπον.

ΑΛΚ. Τίνων;

ΣΩ. Ψυχὴν ἢ σῶμα ἢ συναμφότερον, τὸ ὅλον τοῦτο.

ΑΛΚ. Τί μὴν;

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὴν αὐτό γε τὸ τοῦ σώματος ἄρχον ὁμολογήσαμεν ἄνθρωπον εἶναι;

B ΑΛΚ. Ὁμολογήσαμεν.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν σῶμα αὐτὸ αὐτοῦ ἄρχει;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐδαμῶς.

ΣΩ. Ἄρχεσθαι γὰρ αὐτὸ εἶπομεν.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Apparently.

SOC. And man uses his whole body too ?

ALC. To be sure.

SOC. And we said that the user and what he uses are different ?

ALC. Yes.

SOC. So man is different from his own body ?

ALC. It seems so.

SOC. Then whatever is man ?

ALC. I cannot say.

SOC. Oh, but you can—that he is the user of the body.

ALC. Yes.

SOC. And the user of it must be the soul ?

ALC. It must.

SOC. And ruler ?

ALC. Yes.

SOC. Now, here is a remark from which no one, I think, can dissent.

ALC. What is it ?

SOC. That man must be one of three things.

ALC. What things ?

SOC. Soul, body, or both together as one whole.

ALC. Very well.

SOC. But yet we have admitted that what actually rules the body is man ?

ALC. We have.

SOC. And does the body rule itself ?

ALC. By no means.

SOC. Because we have said that it is ruled.

PLATO

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἂν δὴ τοῦτό γε εἶη ὃ ζητοῦμεν.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔοικεν.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἄρα τὸ συναμφότερον τοῦ σώματος ἄρχει, καὶ ἔστι δὴ τοῦτο ἄνθρωπος;

ΑΛΚ. Ἴσως δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Πάντων γε ἤκιστα· μὴ γὰρ συνάρχοντος τοῦ ἐτέρου οὐδεμίας που μηχανῆ τὸ συναμφότερον ἄρχειν.

ΑΛΚ. Ὅρθως.

C ΣΩ. Ἐπειδὴ δὲ οὔτε σῶμα οὔτε τὸ συναμφότερόν ἐστιν ἄνθρωπος, λείπεται, οἶμαι, ἢ μηδὲν αὐτὸ εἶναι, ἢ εἶπερ τί ἐστι, μηδὲν ἄλλο τὸν ἄνθρωπον συμβαίνειν ἢ ψυχὴν.

ΑΛΚ. Κομιδῆ μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Ἔτι οὖν τι σαφέστερον δεῖ ἀποδειχθῆναί σοι, ὅτι ἡ ψυχὴ ἐστιν ἄνθρωπος;

ΑΛΚ. Μὰ Δί', ἀλλὰ ἱκανῶς μοι δοκεῖ ἔχειν.

D ΣΩ. Εἰ δέ γε μὴ ἀκριβῶς ἀλλὰ καὶ μετρίως, ἐξαρκεῖ ἡμῖν· ἀκριβῶς μὲν γὰρ τότε εἰσόμεθα, ὅταν εὖρωμεν ὃ νῦν δὴ παρήλθομεν διὰ τὸ πολλῆς εἶναι σκέψεως.

ΑΛΚ. Τί τοῦτο;

ΣΩ. Ὁ ἄρτι οὕτω πως ἐρρήθη, ὅτι πρῶτον σκεπτόμενον εἶη αὐτὸ τὸ αὐτό· νῦν δὲ ἀντὶ τοῦ αὐτοῦ αὐτὸ ἕκαστον ἐσκέμμεθα ὃ τι ἐστί. καὶ ἴσως ἐξαρκέσει· οὐ γάρ που κυριώτερόν γε οὐδὲν ἂν ἡμῶν αὐτῶν φήσαιομεν ἢ τὴν ψυχὴν.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καλῶς ἔχει οὕτω νομίζεις, ἐμὲ καὶ

<sup>1</sup> Cf. 129 B.



## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then that cannot be what we are seeking.

ALC. It seems not.

soc. Well then, does the combination of the two rule the body, so that we are to regard this as man?

ALC. Perhaps it is.

soc. The unlikeliest thing in the world : for if one of the two does not share in the rule, it is quite inconceivable that the combination of the two can be ruling.

ALC. You are right.

soc. But since neither the body nor the combination of the two is man, we are reduced, I suppose, to this : either man is nothing at all, or if something, he turns out to be nothing else than soul.

ALC. Precisely so.

soc. Well, do you require some yet clearer proof that the soul is man?

ALC. No, I assure you : I think it is amply proved.

soc. And if it is tolerably, though not exactly, we are content ; exact knowledge will be ours later, when we have discovered the thing that we passed over just now because it would involve much consideration.

ALC. What is that?

soc. The point suggested in that remark a moment ago,<sup>1</sup> that we should first consider the same-in-itself ; but so far, instead of the same, we have been considering what each single thing is in itself. And perhaps we shall be satisfied with that : for surely we cannot say that anything has more absolute possession of ourselves than the soul.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. And it is proper to take the view that you

σὲ προσομιλεῖν ἀλλήλοις τοῖς λόγοις χρωμένους τῇ ψυχῇ πρὸς τὴν ψυχὴν;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

Ε ΣΩ. Τοῦτ' ἄρα ἦν ὃ καὶ ὀλίγω ἔμπροσθεν εἶπομεν, ὅτι Σωκράτης Ἀλκιβιάδῃ διαλέγεται λόγῳ χρώμενος, οὐ πρὸς τὸ σὸν πρόσωπον, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὸν Ἀλκιβιάδην ποιούμενος τοὺς λόγους· τοῦτο δ' ἐστὶν ἡ ψυχὴ.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ψυχὴν ἄρα ἡμᾶς κελεύει γνωρίσαι ὃ ἐπιτάττων γινῶναι ἑαυτόν.

131 ΑΛΚ. Ἐοικεν.

ΣΩ. Ὅστις ἄρα τῶν τοῦ σώματός τι γινώσκει, τὰ αὐτοῦ ἀλλ' οὐχ αὐτὸν ἔγνωκεν.

ΑΛΚ. Οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Οὐδεὶς ἄρα τῶν ἰατρῶν ἑαυτὸν γινώσκει, καθ' ὅσον ἰατρός, οὐδὲ τῶν παιδοτριβῶν, καθ' ὅσον παιδοτρίβης.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔοικεν.

ΣΩ. Πολλοῦ ἄρα δέουσιν οἱ γεωργοὶ καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι δημιουργοὶ γινώσκειν ἑαυτούς. οὐδὲ γὰρ τὰ ἑαυτῶν οὐτοί γε, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἀλλ' ἔτι πορρωτέρω τῶν ἑαυτῶν κατὰ γε τὰς τέχνας ἄς ἔχουσι· τὰ γὰρ τοῦ

Β σώματος γινώσκουσιν, οἷς τοῦτο θεραπεύεται.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Εἰ ἄρα σωφροσύνη ἐστὶ τὸ ἑαυτὸν γινώσκειν, οὐδεὶς τούτων σώφρων κατὰ τὴν τέχνην.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μοι δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Διὰ ταῦτα δὴ καὶ βάνασοι αὐται αἱ τέχναι δοκοῦσιν εἶναι καὶ οὐκ ἀνδρὸς ἀγαθοῦ μαθήματα.

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

## ALCIBIADES I

and I are conversing with each other, while we make use of words, by intercourse of soul with soul ?

ALC. Quite so.

SOC. Well, that is just what we suggested a little while ago—that Socrates, in using words to talk with Alcibiades, is holding speech, not with your face, it would seem, but with *Alcibiades*—that is, with his soul.

ALC. I believe so.

SOC. Then he who enjoins a knowledge of oneself bids us become acquainted with the soul.

ALC. So it seems.

SOC. And anyone who gets to know something belonging to the body knows the things that are his, but not himself.

ALC. That is so.

SOC. Then no physician, in so far as he is a physician, knows himself, nor does any trainer, in so far as he is a trainer.

ALC. It seems not.

SOC. And farmers, and craftsmen generally, are far from knowing themselves. For these people, it would seem, do not even know their own things, but only things still more remote than their own things, in respect of the arts which they follow ; since they know but the things of the body, with which it is tended.

ALC. That is true.

SOC. So if knowing oneself is temperance, none of these people is temperate in respect of his art.

ALC. None, I agree.

SOC. And that is why these arts are held to be sordid, and no acquirements for a good man.

ALC. Quite so.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν πάλιν ὅστις αὐτὸ σῶμα θεραπεύει, τὰ ἑαυτοῦ ἀλλ' οὐχ αὐτὸν θεραπεύει;

ΑΛΚ. Κινδυνεύει.

ΣΩ. Ὅστις δέ γε τὰ χρήματα, οὐθ' ἑαυτὸν οὔτε  
C τὰ ἑαυτοῦ, ἀλλ' ἔτι πορρωτέρω τῶν ἑαυτοῦ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Οὐ τὰ αὐτοῦ ἄρα ἔτι πράττει ὁ χρηματιστής.

ΑΛΚ. Ὅρθῶς.

ΣΩ. Εἰ ἄρα τις γέγονεν ἐραστής τοῦ Ἀλκιβιάδου σώματος, οὐκ Ἀλκιβιάδου ἠράσθη, ἀλλὰ τινος τῶν Ἀλκιβιάδου.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ὅστις δέ σου τῆς ψυχῆς ἐρά;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη φαίνεται ἐκ τοῦ λόγου.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὁ μὲν τοῦ σώματός σου ἐρῶν,  
ἐπειδὴ λήγει ἀνθοῦν, ἀπιὼν οἴχεται;

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

D ΣΩ. Ὁ δέ γε τῆς ψυχῆς ἐρῶν οὐκ ἄπεισιν, ἕως ἂν ἐπὶ τὸ βέλτιον ἴη;

ΑΛΚ. Εἰκός γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἐγὼ εἶμι ὁ οὐκ ἀπιὼν ἀλλὰ παρα-  
μένων λήγοντος τοῦ σώματος, τῶν ἄλλων ἀπε-  
ληλυθότων.

ΑΛΚ. Εὖ γε ποιῶν, ὦ Σώκρατες· καὶ μὴ ἀπέ-  
λθοις.

ΣΩ. Προθυμοῦ τοίνυν ὅτι κάλλιστος εἶναι.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀλλὰ προθυμήσομαι.

ΣΩ. Ὡς οὔτω γέ σοι ἔχει· οὔτ' ἐγένεθ', ὡς  
E ἕοικεν, Ἀλκιβιάδῃ τῷ Κλεινίου ἐραστής οὔτ' ἔστιν

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. Then once again, whoever tends his body tends his own things, but not himself?

ALC. It looks rather like it.

soc. But whoever tends his money tends neither himself nor his own things, but only things yet more remote than his own things?

ALC. I agree.

soc. So that the money-maker has ceased to do his own business.

ALC. Correct.

soc. And if anyone is found to be a lover of Alcibiades' body, he has fallen in love, not with Alcibiades, but with something belonging to Alcibiades?

ALC. That is true.

soc. Your lover is rather he who loves your soul?

ALC. He must be, apparently, by our argument.

soc. And he who loves your body quits you, and is gone, as soon as its bloom is over?

ALC. Apparently.

soc. Whereas he who loves your soul will not quit you so long as it makes for what is better?

ALC. So it seems.

soc. And I am he who does not quit you, but remains with you when your body's prime is over, and the rest have departed.

ALC. Yes, and I am glad of it, Socrates, and hope you will not go.

soc. Then you must endeavour to be as handsome as you can.

ALC. Well, I shall endeavour.

soc. You see how you stand: Alcibiades, the son of Cleinias, it seems, neither had nor has any lover

ἀλλ' ἢ εἰς μόνος, καὶ οὗτος ἀγαπητός, Σωκράτης ὁ Σωφρονίσκου καὶ Φαιναρέτης.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἔφησθα σμικρὸν φθῆναί με προσελθόντα σοι, ἐπεὶ πρότερος ἂν μοι προσελθεῖν, βουλόμενος πυθέσθαι, δι' ὃ τι μόνος οὐκ ἀπέρχομαι;

ΑΛΚ. Ἦν γὰρ οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Τοῦτο τοίνυν αἴτιον, ὅτι μόνος ἐραστῆς ἦν σός, οἱ δ' ἄλλοι τῶν σῶν· τὰ δὲ σὰ λήγει ὥρας, 132 σὺ δ' ἄρχῃ ἀνθεῖν. καὶ νῦν γε ἂν μὴ διαφθαρῆς ὑπὸ τοῦ Ἀθηναίων δήμου καὶ αἰσχύων γένῃ, οὐ μὴ σε ἀπολίπω. τοῦτο γὰρ δὴ μάλιστα ἐγὼ φοβοῦμαι, μὴ δημεραστῆς ἡμῖν γενόμενος διαφθαρῆς· πολλοὶ γὰρ ἤδη καὶ ἀγαθοὶ αὐτὸ πεπόνθασιν Ἀθηναίων. εὐπρόσωπος γὰρ ὁ τοῦ μεγαλήτορος δήμος Ἐρεχθέως· ἀλλ' ἀποδύντα χρὴ αὐτὸν θεάσασθαι· εὐλαβοῦ οὖν τὴν εὐλάβειαν ἣν ἐγὼ λέγω.

ΑΛΚ. Τίνα;

Β ΣΩ. Γύμνασαι πρῶτον, ὦ μακάριε, καὶ μάθε ἃ δεῖ μαθόντα ἰεῖναι ἐπὶ τὰ τῆς πόλεως, πρότερον δὲ μὴ, ἵν' ἀλεξιφάρμακα ἔχων ἴῃς καὶ μηδὲν πάθῃς δεινόν.

ΑΛΚ. Εὐ μοι δοκεῖς λέγειν, ὦ Σώκρατες· ἀλλὰ πειρῶ ἐξηγεῖσθαι, ὄντιν' ἂν<sup>1</sup> τρόπον ἐπιμεληθεῖμεν ἡμῶν αὐτῶν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τοσοῦτον μὲν ἡμῖν εἰς τὸ πρόσθεν πεπέρανται· ὃ γὰρ ἐσμέν, ἐπιεικῶς ὠμολόγηται· ἐφοβούμεθα δὲ μὴ τούτου σφαλέντες λάθωμεν ἐτέρου τινὸς ἐπιμελόμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐχ ἡμῶν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἔστι ταῦτα.

<sup>1</sup> ὄντιν' ἂν Bekker: ὄντινα mss.

<sup>1</sup> Quoted from Homer, *Il.* ii. 547.

## ALCIBIADES I

except one only, and that a cherished one, Socrates, the son of Sophroniscus and Phaenarete.

ALC. True.

soc. And you said that I only just anticipated you in coming to you, for otherwise you would have come to me first for the purpose of inquiring why I am the only one who does not leave you ?

ALC. Yes, that was so.

soc. Then the reason was that I was the only lover of *you*, whereas the rest were lovers of what is yours ; and that is losing its charm, while *you* are beginning to bloom. So now, if you are not blighted and deformed by the Athenian people, I shall never forsake you. For my chiefest fear is of your being blighted by becoming a lover of the people, since many a good Athenian has come to that ere now. For fair of face is "the people of great-hearted Erechtheus"<sup>1</sup>; but you should get a view of it stripped : so take the precaution that I recommend.

ALC. What is it ?

soc. Exercise yourself first, my wonderful friend, in learning what you ought to know before entering on politics ; you must wait till you have learnt, in order that you may be armed with an antidote and so come to no harm.

ALC. Your advice seems to me good, Socrates ; but try to explain in what way we can take pains over ourselves.

soc. Well, we have made one step in advance ; for there is a pretty fair agreement now as to what we are, whereas we were afraid we might fail of this and take pains, without knowing it, over something other than ourselves.

ALC. That is so.

C    ζν. Καὶ μετὰ τοῦτο δὴ ὅτι τῆς ψυχῆς ἐπιμελη-  
τέον καὶ εἰς τοῦτο βλεπτέον.

ΑΛΚ. Δῆλον.

ζν. Σωμάτων δὲ καὶ χρημάτων τὴν ἐπιμέλειαν  
ἐτέροις παραδοτέον.

ΑΛΚ. Τί μῆν;

ζν. Τίν' οὖν ἂν τρόπον γνοιήμεν αὐτὸ<sup>1</sup> ἐναρ-  
γέστατα; ἐπειδὴ τοῦτο γνόντες, ὡς ἔοικεν, καὶ  
ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς γνωσόμεθα. ἄρα πρὸς θεῶν εὖ  
λέγοντος οὐ νῦν δὴ ἐμνήσθημεν τοῦ Δελφικοῦ  
γράμματος οὐ συνίεμεν;

ΑΛΚ. Τὸ ποῖόν τι διανοούμενος λέγεις, ὦ Σώ-  
κρατες;

D    ζν. Ἐγὼ σοι φράσω, ὃ γε ὑποπτεύω λέγειν καὶ  
συμβουλεύειν ἡμῖν τοῦτο τὸ γράμμα. κινδυνεύει  
γὰρ οὐδὲ πολλαχοῦ εἶναι παράδειγμα αὐτοῦ, ἀλλὰ  
κατὰ τὴν ὄψιν μόνον.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς τοῦτο λέγεις;

ζν. Σκόπει καὶ σύ. εἰ ἡμῶν τῷ ὄμματι ὥσπερ  
ἀνθρώπῳ συμβουλευῶν εἶπεν ἰδὲ σαυτόν, πῶς ἂν  
ὑπελάβομεν τί παραινεῖν; ἄρα οὐχὶ εἰς τοῦτο  
βλέπειν, εἰς ὃ βλέπων ὁ ὀφθαλμὸς ἔμελλεν αὐτὸν  
ἰδεῖν;

ΑΛΚ. Δῆλον.

ζν. Ἐννοῶμεν δὴ, εἰς τί βλέποντες τῶν ὄντων  
E ἐκεῖνό τε ὀρῶμεν ἅμα ἂν καὶ ἡμᾶς αὐτούς;

ΑΛΚ. Δῆλον δὴ, ὦ Σώκρατες, ὅτι εἰς κάτοπτρά  
τε καὶ τὰ τοιαῦτα.

ζν. Ὅρθῶς λέγεις. οὐκοῦν καὶ τῷ ὀφθαλμῷ  
ὦ ὀρῶμεν ἔνεστί <τι><sup>2</sup> τῶν τοιούτων;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

<sup>1</sup> αὐτὸ Schleiermacher: αὐτὰ MSS.



## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And the next step, we see, is to take care of the soul, and look to that.

ALC. Clearly.

soc. While handing over to others the care of our bodies and our coffers.

ALC. Quite so.

soc. Then how shall we obtain the most certain knowledge of it? For if we know that, it seems we shall know ourselves also. In Heaven's name, do we fail to comprehend the wise words of the Delphic inscription, which we mentioned just now?

ALC. With what intent do you say that, Socrates?

soc. I will tell you what I suspect to be the real advice which the inscription gives us. I rather think there are not many illustrations of it to be found, but only in the case of sight.

ALC. What do you mean by that?

soc. Consider in your turn: suppose that, instead of speaking to a man, it said to the eye of one of us, as a piece of advice—"See thyself,"—how should we apprehend the meaning of the admonition? Would it not be, that the eye should look at that by looking at which it would see itself?

ALC. Clearly.

soc. Then let us think what object there is anywhere, by looking at which we can see both it and ourselves.

ALC. Why, clearly, Socrates, mirrors and things of that sort.

soc. Quite right. And there is also something of that sort in the eye that we see with?

ALC. To be sure.

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<sup>2</sup>  $\tau\iota$  add. F. A. Wolf.

PLATO

133 ΣΩ. Ἐννενόηκας οὖν ὅτι τοῦ ἐμβλέποντος εἰς τὸν ὀφθαλμὸν τὸ πρόσωπον ἐμφαίνεται ἐν τῇ τοῦ  
 κόρην καλοῦμέν, εἶδωλον ὃν τι τοῦ ἐμβλέποντος;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ὄφθαλμὸς ἄρα ὀφθαλμὸν θεώμενος, καὶ ἐμβλέπων εἰς τοῦτο ὅπερ βέλτιστον αὐτοῦ καὶ ᾧ ὄρα, οὕτως ἂν αὐτὸν ἴδοι.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Εἰ δέ γε εἰς ἄλλο τῶν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου βλέπει ἢ τι τῶν ὄντων, πλὴν εἰς ἐκεῖνο ᾧ τοῦτο τυγχάνει ὅμοιον, οὐκ ὄψεται ἑαυτόν.

B ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ὄφθαλμὸς ἄρα εἰ μέλλει ἰδεῖν ἑαυτόν, εἰς ὀφθαλμὸν αὐτῷ βλεπτόν, καὶ τοῦ ὀμματος εἰς ἐκεῖνον τὸν τόπον, ἐν ᾧ τυγχάνει ἢ ὀφθαλμοῦ ἀρετῆ ἐγγιγνομένη· ἔστι δὲ τοῦτό που ὄψις;

ΑΛΚ. Οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν, ᾧ φίλε Ἀλκιβιάδη, καὶ ψυχὴ εἰ μέλλει γνῶσεσθαι αὐτήν, εἰς ψυχὴν αὐτῇ βλεπτόν, καὶ μάλιστ' εἰς τοῦτον αὐτῆς τὸν τόπον, ἐν ᾧ ἐγγίγνεται ἢ ψυχῆς ἀρετῆ, σοφία, καὶ εἰς ἄλλο ᾧ τοῦτο τυγχάνει ὅμοιον ὄν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ, ᾧ Σώκρατες.

C ΣΩ. Ἐχομεν οὖν εἰπεῖν, ὅ τι ἐστὶ τῆς ψυχῆς θειότερον ἢ τοῦτο, περὶ ὃ τὸ εἶδέναι τε καὶ φρονεῖν ἐστίν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ ἔχομεν.

ΣΩ. Τῷ θεῷ ἄρα τοῦτ' ἔοικεν αὐτῆς, καὶ τις εἰς

<sup>1</sup> The Greek *κόρη* and the Latin *puvilla* both meant "little  
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## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And have you observed that the face of the person who looks into another's eye is shown in the optic confronting him, as in a mirror, and we call this the pupil,<sup>1</sup> for in a sort it is an image of the person looking?

ALC. That is true.

soc. Then an eye viewing another eye, and looking at the most perfect part of it, the thing wherewith it sees, will thus see itself.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. But if it looks at any other thing in man or at anything in nature but what resembles this,<sup>2</sup> it will not see itself.

ALC. That is true.

soc. Then if an eye is to see itself, it must look at an eye, and at that region of the eye in which the virtue of an eye is found to occur; and this, I presume, is sight.

ALC. That is so.

soc. And if the soul too, my dear Alcibiades, is to know herself, she must surely look at a soul, and especially at that region of it in which occurs the virtue of a soul—wisdom, and at any other part of a soul which resembles this?

ALC. I agree, Socrates.

soc. And can we find any part of the soul that we can call more divine than this, which is the seat of knowledge and thought?

ALC. We cannot.

soc. Then this part of her resembles God, and

girl" or "doll," and were used to indicate the dark centre of the eye in which a tiny image can be seen reflected.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* it must look at the pupil of a man's eye, or at what is comparable to that "perfect part" in other things.

PLATO

τοῦτο βλέπων καὶ πᾶν τὸ θεῖον γνούς, [θεόν τε καὶ φρόνησιν],<sup>1</sup> οὕτω καὶ ἑαυτὸν ἂν γνοίῃ μάλιστα.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Τὸ δὲ γινώσκειν αὐτὸν ὠμολογοῦμεν σωφροσύνην εἶναι;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν μὴ γινώσκοντες ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς μηδὲ σώφρονες ὄντες δυναίμεθ' ἂν εἰδέναι τὰ ἡμέτερα αὐτῶν κακά τε καὶ ἀγαθά;

ΑΛΚ. Καὶ πῶς ἂν τοῦτο γένοιτο, ὦ Σώκρατες;

D ΣΩ. Ἀδύνατον γὰρ ἴσως σοι φαίνεται μὴ γινώσκοντα Ἀλκιβιάδην τὰ Ἀλκιβιάδου γινώσκειν ὅτι Ἀλκιβιάδου ἐστίν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀδύνατον μέντοι νῆ Δία.

ΣΩ. Οὐδ' ἄρα τὰ ἡμέτερα ὅτι ἡμέτερα, εἰ μηδ' ἡμᾶς αὐτούς;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γάρ;

ΣΩ. Εἰ δ' ἄρα μηδὲ<sup>2</sup> τὰ ἡμέτερα, οὐδὲ τὰ τῶν ἡμετέρων;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα πάνυ τι ὀρθῶς ὠμολογοῦμεν ὁμολογοῦντες ἄρτι εἶναι τινας, οἱ ἑαυτοὺς μὲν οὐ γινώσκουσι, τὰ δὲ ἑαυτῶν, ἄλλους δὲ τὰ τῶν ἑαυτῶν. ἔοικε γὰρ πάντα ταῦτα εἶναι κατιδεῖν ἐνός τε καὶ  
E μιᾶς τέχνης, αὐτόν, τὰ αὐτοῦ, τὰ τῶν ἑαυτοῦ.

ΑΛΚ. Κινδυνεύει.

ΣΩ. Ὅστις δὲ τὰ αὐτοῦ ἀγνοεῖ, καὶ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων που ἂν ἀγνοοῖ κατὰ ταῦτά.

ΑΛΚ. Τί μῆν;

<sup>1</sup> θεόν τε καὶ φρόνησιν om. Olympiodorus.

<sup>2</sup> μηδὲ Stobaeus: om. MSS.

<sup>1</sup> Above, 131 B.

## ALCIBIADES I

whoever looks at this, and comes to know all that is divine, will gain thereby the best knowledge of himself.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. And self-knowledge we admitted to be temperance.<sup>1</sup>

ALC. To be sure.

soc. So if we have no knowledge of ourselves and no temperance, shall we be able to know our own belongings, good or evil?

ALC. How can that be, Socrates?

soc. For I expect it seems impossible to you that without knowing Alcibiades you should know that the belongings of Alcibiades are in fact his.

ALC. Impossible indeed, upon my word.

soc. Nor could we know that our belongings are ours if we did not even know ourselves?

ALC. How could we?

soc. And so, if we did not so much as know our belongings, we could not know the belongings of our belongings either?

ALC. Apparently not.

soc. Then we were not quite correct in admitting just now that there are people who, without knowing themselves, know their belongings, while others know their belongings' belongings. For it seems to be the function of one man and one art to discern all three—himself, his belongings, and the belongings of his belongings.

ALC. It looks like it.

soc. And anyone who is ignorant of his belongings will be similarly ignorant, I suppose, of the belongings of others.

ALC. Quite so.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εἰ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων, καὶ τὰ τῶν πόλεων ἀγνοήσῃ.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρ' ἂν γένοιτο ὁ τοιοῦτος ἀνὴρ πολιτικός.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐ μὴν οὐδ' οἰκονομικός γε.

134 ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲ εἴσεται ὅ τι πράττει.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ γὰρ οὔν.

ΣΩ. Ὅ δὲ μὴ εἰδὼς οὐχ ἁμαρτήσεται;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἐξαμαρτάνων δὲ οὐ κακῶς πράξει ἰδίᾳ τε καὶ δημοσίᾳ;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δ' οὔ;

ΣΩ. Κακῶς δὲ πράττων οὐκ ἄθλιος;

ΑΛΚ. Σφόδρα γε.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' οἷς οὔτος πράττει;

ΑΛΚ. Καὶ οὔτοι.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα οἶόν τε, ἔαν μὴ τις σώφρων καὶ ἀγαθὸς ᾗ, εὐδαιμόνα εἶναι.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐχ οἶόν τε.

Β ΣΩ. Οἱ ἄρα κακοὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἄθλιοι.

ΑΛΚ. Σφόδρα γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα οὐδ' ὁ πλουτήσας ἀθλιότητος ἀπαλλάττεται, ἀλλ' ὁ σωφρονήσας.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα τειχῶν οὐδὲ τριήρων οὐδὲ νεωριῶν δέονται αἱ πόλεις, ὧ Ἀλκιβιάδη, εἰ μέλλουσιν εὐδαιμονήσῃν, οὐδὲ πλήθους οὐδὲ μεγέθους ἄνευ ἀρετῆς.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μέντοι.

## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And if ignorant of others' affairs, he will be ignorant also of the affairs of states.

ALC. He must be.

soc. Then such a man can never be a statesman.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. No, nor an economist either.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Nor will he know what he is doing.

ALC. No, I agree.

soc. And will not he who does not know make mistakes ?

ALC. To be sure.

soc. And when he makes mistakes, will he not do ill both in private and in public ?

ALC. Of course.

soc. And doing ill he will be wretched ?

ALC. Yes, very.

soc. And what of those for whom he is doing so ?

ALC. They will be wretched also.

soc. Then it is impossible to be happy if one is not temperate and good.

ALC. Impossible.

soc. So it is the bad men who are wretched.

ALC. Yes, very.

soc. And hence it is not he who has made himself rich that is relieved of wretchedness, but he who has made himself temperate.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. So it is not walls or warships or arsenals that cities need, Alcibiades, if they are to be happy, nor numbers, nor size, without virtue.

ALC. No, indeed.

ΣΩ. Εἰ δὴ μέλλεις τὰ τῆς πόλεως πράξειν ὀρθῶς καὶ καλῶς, ἀρετῆς σοι μεταδοτέον τοῖς πολίταις.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὐ;

C ΣΩ. Δύναίτο δ' ἂν τις μεταδιδόναι ὃ μὴ ἔχοι;

ΑΛΚ. Καὶ πῶς;

ΣΩ. Αὐτῷ ἄρα σοὶ πρῶτον κτητέον ἀρετὴν, καὶ ἄλλω ὅς μέλλει μὴ ἰδίᾳ μόνον αὐτοῦ τε καὶ τῶν αὐτοῦ ἄρξειν καὶ ἐπιμελήσεσθαι, ἀλλὰ πόλεως καὶ τῶν τῆς πόλεως.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα ἐξουσίαν σοι οὐδ' ἀρχὴν παρασκευαστέον σαυτῷ ποιεῖν ὅ τι ἂν βούλη, οὐδὲ τῇ πόλει, ἀλλὰ δικαιοσύνην καὶ σωφροσύνην.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

D ΣΩ. Δικαίως μὲν γὰρ πράττοντες καὶ σωφρόνως σύ τε καὶ ἡ πόλις θεοφιλῶς πράξετε.

ΑΛΚ. Εἰκός γε.

ΣΩ. Καὶ ὅπερ γε ἐν τοῖς πρόσθεν ἐλέγομεν, εἰς τὸ θεῖον καὶ λαμπρὸν ὀρώντες πράξετε.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὴν ἐνταῦθά γε βλέποντες ὑμᾶς τε αὐτοὺς καὶ τὰ ὑμέτερα ἀγαθὰ κατόψεσθε καὶ γνῶσεσθε.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὀρθῶς τε καὶ εὖ πράξετε;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

E ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὴν οὕτω γε πράττοντας ὑμᾶς ἐθέλω ἐγγυῆσασθαι ἢ μὴν εὐδαιμονήσειν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀσφαλῆς γὰρ εἶ ἐγγυητής.

ΣΩ. Ἀδίκως δὲ πράττοντες, εἰς τὸ ἄθεον καὶ τὸ σκοτεινὸν βλέποντες, ὡς τὰ εἰκότα, ὅμοια τούτοις πράξετε ἀγνοοῦντες ὑμᾶς αὐτοὺς.



## ALCIBIADES I

soc. And if you are to manage the city's affairs properly and honourably, you must impart virtue to the citizens.

ALC. Of course.

soc. But could one possibly impart a thing that one had not ?

ALC. How, indeed ?

soc. Then you or anyone else who is to be governor and curator, not merely of himself and his belongings in private, but of the state and its affairs, must first acquire virtue himself.

ALC. That is true.

soc. Hence it is not licence or authority for doing what one pleases that you have to secure to yourself or the state, but justice and temperance.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. For you and the state, if you act justly and temperately, will act so as to please God.

ALC. Naturally.

soc. And, as we were saying in what went before, you will act with your eyes turned on what is divine and bright.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. Well, and looking thereon you will behold and know both yourselves and your good.

ALC. Yes.

soc. And so you will act aright and well ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Well now, if you act in this way, I am ready to warrant that you must be happy.

ALC. And I can rely on your warranty.

soc. But if you act unjustly, with your eyes on the godless and dark, the probability is that your acts will resemble these through your ignorance of yourselves.

ΑΛΚ. Ἔοικεν.

ΣΩ. ὦτι γὰρ ἄν, ὦ φίλε Ἀλκιβιάδη, ἐξουσία μὲν ἢ ποιεῖν ὃ βούλεται, νοῦν δὲ μὴ ἔχῃ, τί τὸ εἰκὸς συμβαίνειν, ἰδιώτῃ ἢ καὶ πόλει; οἷον νοσοῦντι ἐξουσίας οὔσης δρᾶν ὃ βούλεται, νοῦν ἰατρικὸν μὴ  
 135 ἔχοντι, τυραννοῦντι δὲ ὡς μηδὲ ἐπιπλήττοι τις αὐτῷ, τί τὸ συμβησόμενον; ἄρ' οὐχ, ὡς το εἰκός, διαφθαρῆναι τὸ σῶμα;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' ἐν νηϊ, εἴ τῳ ἐξουσία εἴη ποιεῖν ὃ δοκεῖ, νοῦ τε καὶ ἀρετῆς κυβερνητικῆς ἐστερημένῳ, καθορᾶς ἂ ἄν συμβαίῃ αὐτῷ τε καὶ τοῖς συνναύταις;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ γε, ὅτι γε ἀπόλοιτο πάντες ἄν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὡσαύτως ἐν πόλει τε καὶ πάσαις ἀρχαῖς καὶ ἐξουσίαις ἀπολειπομέναις ἀρετῆς ἔπεται  
 Β τὸ κακῶς πράττειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα τυραννίδα χρή, ὦ ἄριστε Ἀλκιβιάδη, παρασκευάζεσθαι οὔθ' αὐτῷ οὔτε τῇ πόλει, εἰ μέλλετε εὐδαιμονεῖν, ἀλλ' ἀρετῆν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Πρὶν δέ γε ἀρετῆν ἔχειν, τὸ ἄρχεσθαι ἄμεινον ὑπὸ τοῦ βελτίονος ἢ τὸ ἄρχειν ἀνδρὶ, οὐ μόνον παιδί.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τό γε ἄμεινον καὶ κάλλιον;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τὸ δὲ κάλλιον πρεπωδέστερον;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς δ' οὔ;

ΣΩ. Πρέπει ἄρα τῷ κακῷ δουλεύειν ἄμεινον γάρ.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. That is probable.

soc. For if a man, my dear Alcibiades, is at liberty to do what he pleases, but is lacking in mind, what is the probable result to him personally, or to the state as well? For instance, if he is sick and at liberty to do what he pleases—without a medical mind, but with a despot's power which prevents anyone from even reproving him—what will be the result? Will not his health, in all likelihood, be shattered?

ALC. That is true.

soc. Again, in a ship, if a man were at liberty to do what he chose, but were devoid of mind and excellence in navigation, do you perceive what must happen to him and his fellow-sailors?

ALC. I do : they must all perish.

soc. And in just the same way, if a state, or any office or authority, is lacking in excellence or virtue, it will be overtaken by failure?

ALC. It must.

soc. Then it is not despotic power, my admirable Alcibiades, that you ought to secure either to yourself or to the state, if you would be happy, but virtue.

ALC. That is true.

soc. And before getting virtue, to be governed by a superior is better than to govern, for a man as well as a child.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. And the better is also nobler?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And the nobler more becoming?

ALC. Of course.

soc. Then it becomes a bad man to be a slave, since it is better.

PLATO

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Δουλοπρεπές ἄρα ἡ κακία.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Ἐλευθεροπρεπές δὲ ἡ ἀρετή.

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν φεύγειν χρή, ὦ ἑταῖρε, τὴν δουλοπρέπειαν;

ΑΛΚ. Μάλιστά γε, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Αἰσθάνη δὲ νῦν πῶς ἔχεις; ἐλευθεροπρεπῶς ἢ οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Δοκῶ μοι καὶ μάλα σφόδρα αἰσθάνεσθαι.

ΣΩ. Οἶσθα οὖν, πῶς ἀποφεύξῃ τοῦτο τὸ περι σὲ νῦν; ἵνα μὴ ὀνομάζωμεν αὐτὸ ἐπὶ καλῶ ἀνδρί.

D ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ γε.

ΣΩ. Πῶς;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐὰν βούλῃ σύ, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Οὐ καλῶς λέγεις, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀλλὰ πῶς χρή λέγειν;

ΣΩ. Ὅτι ἐὰν θεὸς ἐθέλῃ.

ΑΛΚ. Λέγω δὴ. καὶ πρὸς τούτοις μέντοι τόδε λέγω, ὅτι κινδυνεύσομεν μεταβαλεῖν τὸ σχῆμα, ὦ Σώκρατες, τὸ μὲν σὸν ἐγώ, σὺ δὲ τοῦμόν· οὐ γὰρ ἔστιν ὅπως οὐ παιδαγωγήσω σε ἀπὸ τῆσδε τῆς ἡμέρας, σὺ δ' ὑπ' ἐμοῦ παιδαγωγήσῃ.

E ΣΩ. ὦ γενναῖε, πελαργοῦ ἄρα ὁ ἐμὸς ἔρωσ οὐδὲν διοίσει, εἰ παρὰ σοὶ ἐννεοττεύσας ἔρωτα ὑπόπτερον ὑπὸ τούτου πάλιν θεραπεύσεται.

<sup>1</sup> παιδαγωγεῖν is used here simply in the sense of "following about as personal attendant."

<sup>2</sup> It was commonly believed that aged storks were fed by

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Yes.

SOC. So vice is a thing that becomes a slave.

ALC. Apparently.

SOC. And virtue becomes a free man.

ALC. Yes.

SOC. And we should shun, my good friend, all slavishness?

ALC. Most certainly, Socrates.

SOC. And do you now perceive how you stand? Are you on the side of the free, or not?

ALC. I think I perceive only too clearly.

SOC. Then do you know how you may escape from the condition in which you now find yourself? Let us not give it a name, where a handsome person is concerned!

ALC. I do.

SOC. How?

ALC. If it be your wish, Socrates.

SOC. That is not well said, Alcibiades.

ALC. Well, what should I say?

SOC. If it be God's will.

ALC. Then I say it. And yet I say this besides, that we are like to make a change in our parts, Socrates, so that I shall have yours and you mine. For from this day onward it must be the case that I am your attendant, and you have me always in attendance on you.<sup>1</sup>

SOC. Ah, generous friend! So my love will be just like a stork; for after hatching a winged love in you it is to be cherished in return by its nestling.<sup>2</sup>

younger storks which they had previously hatched and reared.

## PLATO

ΑΔΚ. Ἄλλὰ οὕτως ἔχει, καὶ ἄρξομαί γε ἐντεῦθεν τῆς δικαιοσύνης ἐπιμέλεσθαι.

ΣΩ. Βουλοίμην ἂν σε καὶ διατελέσαι· ὀρρωδῶ δέ, οὐ τι τῇ σῆ φύσει ἀπιστῶν, ἀλλὰ τὴν τῆς πόλεως ὀρῶν ῥώμην, μὴ ἐμοῦ τε καὶ σοῦ κρατήση.

## ALCIBIADES I

ALC. Well, that is the position, and I shall begin here and now to take pains over justice.

SOC. I should like to think you will continue to do so; yet I am apprehensive, not from any distrust of your nature, but in view of the might of the state, lest it overcome both me and you.





ALCIBIADES II

## INTRODUCTION TO *ALCIBIADES II*

THIS dialogue was included among the genuine works of Plato, about the beginning of our era, by Thrasyllus, the scholar and friend of Augustus ; but there can be no doubt that it is one of the many imitations of Plato's writings which were composed in the third and second centuries B.C. Its subject—the importance of knowing what one ought to pray for—is Socratic enough ; yet the reader who comes to it from an authentic work of Plato, though it be merely an immature study like the *First Alcibiades*, is soon aware of grievous defects in argumentative force and connexion, and must especially remark an utter absence of the play of humour with which Plato habitually and artfully relieves the onset of his master's questioning. The language also, while it shows that the author had a considerable knowledge of Plato, is in many points unplatonic. Its numerous lapses in structure and diction are well exhibited in Stallbaum's introduction and notes : as a few examples we may notice here the Greek phrases which correspond to " manifestation " (140 B), " and so, on the same lines, with the rest " (145 D), and " I shall be only too happy to accept " (151 B). Yet it is worth while to keep this work, provided that its secondary character is recognized, alongside the writings of Plato ; for although its fitful light is

## INTRODUCTION TO *ALCIBIADES II*

merely borrowed from Plato's and Xenophon's lively memorials of Socrates, it helps us to fix by contrast our conception of the matter and manner of those genuine representations.

The dialogue opens with the question whether Alcibiades, who is on his way to a temple, realizes the danger of prayer, when one may be unwittingly praying for quite the wrong thing, like a madman. But madness is only one of the several kinds of imprudence or un wisdom, which is the general cause of such mistakes, and of all misguided ambitions. In particular, and above all, "ignorance of the best" is the cause of human error. We find that all arts and accomplishments are useless or worse, unless they are accompanied by knowledge of their right and beneficial use; and, so far, only the few possess such helpful knowledge. Alcibiades begins to understand the perplexity of prayer, and Socrates illustrates with a story the reverent caution of the Spartans in the matter. Alcibiades then asks him to clear away the mist from his soul, and crowns him with a garland.

# ΑΛΚΙΒΙΑΔΗΣ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΣ

[Η ΠΕΡΙ ΠΡΟΣΕΤΧΗΣ· ΜΑΙΕΥΤΙΚΟΣ]

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ, ΑΛΚΙΒΙΑΔΗΣ

St. II  
p. 138     ΣΩ. ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, ἀρά γε πρὸς τὸν θεὸν προσ-  
ευξόμενος πορεύῃ;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Φαίνῃ γέ τοι ἐσκυθρωπακέναι τε καὶ εἰς  
γῆν βλέπειν, ὥς τι συννοούμενος.

ΑΛΚ. Καὶ τί ἂν τις συννοῖτο, ὦ Σώκρατες;

ΣΩ. Τὴν μεγίστην, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, σύννοιαν,  
B ὥς γ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ. ἐπεὶ φέρε πρὸς Διός, οὐκ οἶει  
τοὺς θεούς, ἃ τυγχάνομεν εὐχόμενοι καὶ ἰδία καὶ  
δημοσία, ἐνίοτε τούτων τὰ μὲν διδόναι, τὰ δ' οὐ,  
καὶ ἔστιν οἷς μὲν αὐτῶν, ἔστι δὲ οἷς οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν δοκεῖ σοι πολλῆς προμηθείας γε  
προσδεῖσθαι, ὅπως μὴ λήσει τις<sup>1</sup> αὐτὸν εὐχόμενος  
μεγάλα κακά, δοκῶν δ' ἀγαθά, οἱ δὲ θεοὶ τύχῳσιν  
ἐν ταύτῃ ὄντες τῇ ἕξει, ἐν ἧ̄ διδῶσιν αὐτοὶ ἅ τις  
εὐχόμενος τυγχάνει; ὥσπερ τὸν Οἰδίπουν αὐτίκα  
C φασὶν εὐξασθαι χαλκῶ διελέσθαι τὰ πατρῶα τοὺς

<sup>1</sup> λήσει τις Bekker: λήσεται MSS.

# ALCIBIADES II

[OR ON PRAYER: "OBSTETRIC"]

## CHARACTERS

SOCRATES, ALCIBIADES

soc. Alcibiades, are you on your way to offer a prayer to the god?

alc. I am, certainly, Socrates.

soc. You seem, let me say, to have a gloomy look, and to keep your eyes on the ground, as though you were pondering something.

alc. And what might one ponder, Socrates?

soc. The greatest of questions, Alcibiades, as I believe. For tell me, in Heaven's name, do you not think that the gods sometimes grant in part, but in part refuse, what we ask of them in our private and public prayers, and gratify some people, but not others?

alc. I do, certainly.

soc. Then you would agree that one should take great precautions against falling unawares into the error of praying for great evils in the belief that they are good, while the gods happen to be disposed to grant freely what one is praying for? Just as Oedipus, they say, suddenly prayed that his sons might divide their patrimony with the sword: it

υίεις· ἐξὸν αὐτῷ τῶν παρόντων αὐτῷ κακῶν ἀποτροπὴν τινα εὐξασθαι, ἕτερα πρὸς τοῖς ὑπάρχουσι κατηρᾶτο· τοιγαροῦν ταυτὰ τε ἐξετελέσθη, καὶ ἐκ τούτων ἄλλα πολλὰ καὶ δεινά, ἃ τί δεῖ καθ' ἕκαστα λέγειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ σὺ μὲν, ὦ Σώκρατες, μαινόμενον ἄνθρωπον εἶρηκας· ἐπεὶ τίς ἄν σοι δοκεῖ τολμῆσαι ὑγιαίνων τοιαῦτ' εὐξασθαι;

ΣΩ. Τὸ μαινέσθαι ἄρα ὑπεναντίον σοι δοκεῖ τῷ φρονεῖν;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

Δ ΣΩ. Ἄφρονες δὲ καὶ φρόνιμοι δοκοῦσιν ἄνθρωποι εἶναι τινές σοι;

ΑΛΚ. Εἶναι μέντοι.

ΣΩ. Φέρε δὴ, ἐπισκεψώμεθα τίνες ποτ' εἰσὶν οὗτοι. ὅτι μὲν γάρ εἰσὶ τινες, ὠμολόγηται, ἄφρονές τε καὶ φρόνιμοι, καὶ μαινόμενοι ἕτεροι.

ΑΛΚ. Ὁμολόγηται γάρ.

ΣΩ. Ἐπι δὲ ὑγιαίνοντές εἰσὶ τινες;

ΑΛΚ. Εἰσίν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἀσθενοῦντες ἕτεροι;

139 ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οὐχ οἱ αὐτοί;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ γάρ.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν καὶ ἕτεροί τινές εἰσιν, οἳ μηδέτερα τούτων πεπόνθασιν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἀνάγκη γάρ ἐστιν ἄνθρωπον ὄντα ἢ νοσεῖν ἢ μὴ νοσεῖν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

## ALCIBIADES II

was open to him to pray that his present evils might by some means be averted, but he invoked others in addition to those which he had already. Wherefore not only were those words of his accomplished, but many other dread results therefrom, which I think there is no need to recount in detail.

ALC. But you have instanced a madman, Socrates : why, do you suppose that anyone could bring himself, while he was in a sound state, to utter such a prayer ?

SOC. Do you regard madness as the opposite of wisdom ?

ALC. Certainly I do.

SOC. And there are some men whom you regard as unwise, and others as wise ?

ALC. Why, yes.

SOC. Come then, let us consider who these people are. We have admitted that some are unwise, some wise, and others mad.

ALC. Yes, we have.

SOC. And again, there are some in sound health ?

ALC. There are.

SOC. And others also who are in ill-health ?

ALC. Quite so.

SOC. And they are not the same ?

ALC. No, indeed.

SOC. And are there any others besides, who are found to be in neither state ?

ALC. No, to be sure.

SOC. For a human being must needs be either sick or not sick.

ALC. I agree.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; περὶ φρονήσεως καὶ ἀφροσύνης ἀρά γε τὴν αὐτὴν ἔχεις σὺ γνώμην<sup>1</sup>;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς λέγεις;

ΣΩ. Εἰ δοκεῖ σοι οἷόν τε εἶναι ἢ φρόνιμον ἢ ἀφρονα, ἢ ἔστι τι διὰ μέσου τρίτον πάθος, ὃ ποιεῖ  
B τὸν ἄνθρωπον μήτε φρόνιμον μήτε ἀφρονα;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἀνάγκη ἄρα ἐστὶ τὸ ἕτερον τούτων πεπονθέναι.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν μέμνησαι ὁμολογήσας ὑπεναντίον εἶναι μανίαν φρονήσεσι;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ μηδὲν εἶναι διὰ μέσου τρίτον πάθος, ὃ ποιεῖ τὸν ἄνθρωπον μήτε φρόνιμον μήτε ἀφρονα εἶναι;

ΑΛΚ. Ὁμολόγησα γάρ.

ΣΩ. Καὶ μὴν δύο γε ὑπεναντία ἐνὶ πράγματι πῶς ἂν εἴη;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐδαμῶς.

C ΣΩ. Ἀφροσύνη ἄρα καὶ μανία κινδυνεύει ταυτόν εἶναι.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Πάντας οὖν ἂν φάντες, ὧ Ἀλκιβιάδη, τοὺς ἀφρονας μαίνεσθαι ὀρθῶς ἂν φαίημεν· αὐτίκα τῶν σῶν ἡλικιωτῶν εἴ τινες τυγχάνουσιν ἀφρονες ὄντες, ὥσπερ εἰσὶ, καὶ τῶν ἔτι πρεσβυτέρων· ἐπεὶ φέρε πρὸς Διός, οὐκ οἶει τῶν ἐν τῇ πόλει ὀλίγους μὲν εἶναι τοὺς φρονίμους, ἀφρονας δὲ δὴ τοὺς πολλούς, οὓς δὴ σὺ μαινομένους καλεῖς;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Οἶει ἂν οὖν χαίροντας ἡμᾶς εἶναι μετὰ τοσού-



## ALCIBIADES II

soc. Well then, do you hold the same view about wisdom and unwisdom ?

ALC. How do you mean ?

soc. Tell me, do you think it is only possible to be either wise or unwise, or is there some third condition between these, which makes a man neither wise nor unwise ?

ALC. No, there is not.

soc. So he must needs be in one or the other of these two conditions.

ALC. I agree.

soc. And you remember that you admitted that madness is the opposite of wisdom ?

ALC. I do.

soc. And further, that there is no third condition between these, which makes a man neither wise nor unwise ?

ALC. Yes, I admitted that.

soc. Well now, can there possibly be two opposites of one thing ?

ALC. By no means.

soc. Then it looks as though unwisdom and madness were the same.

ALC. Yes, apparently.

soc. So we shall be right, Alcibiades, in saying that all unwise persons are mad ; for example, such of your contemporaries as happen to be unwise—some such there are—and of your elders, even : for tell me, in Heaven's name, do you not think that in our city the wise people are but few, whereas the majority are unwise, and these you call mad ?

ALC. I do.

soc. Well, do you suppose we could safely live

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<sup>1</sup> σὺ γνῶμη Burnet: ἔχει συγγνώμη, ἔχεις γνώμη MSS.

PLATO

Ἐ τῶν μαινομένων πολιτευομένους, καὶ οὐκ ἂν παιο-  
μένους καὶ βαλλομένους, καὶ ἅπερ εἰώθασιν οἱ  
μαινόμενοι διαπράττεσθαι, πάλαι δὴ δίκην δεδω-  
κέναι; ἀλλ' ὄρα, ὦ μακάριε, μὴ οὐχ οὕτω ταῦτ'  
ἔχει.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς ἂν οὖν ποτ' ἔχοι, ὦ Σώκρατες;  
κινδυνεύει γὰρ οὐχ οὕτως ἔχειν ὥσπερ ὠήθην.

ΣΩ. Οὐδ' ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ. ἀλλὰ τῆδέ πη ἀθρητέον.

ΑΛΚ. Πῆ ποτε λέγεις;

ΣΩ. Ἐγὼ δὴ σοί γε ἐρῶ. ὑπολαμβάνομέν τινας  
εἶναι νοσοῦντας· ἢ οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

Ἐ ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν δοκεῖ σοι ἀναγκαῖον εἶναι τὸν νο-  
σοῦντα ποδαγρᾶν ἢ πυρέττειν ἢ ὀφθαλμιάν, ἢ οὐκ  
ἂν δοκεῖ σοι καὶ μηδὲν τούτων πεπονηθῶς ἐτέραν  
νόσον νοσεῖν; πολλαὶ γὰρ δήπου γέ εἰσι, καὶ οὐχ  
αὗται μόναι.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκοῦσιν.

ΣΩ. Ὄφθαλμία οὖν σοι δοκεῖ πᾶσα νόσος εἶναι;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν καὶ πᾶσα νόσος ὀφθαλμία;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα ἔμοιγε· ἀπορῶ μέντοι πῶς λέγω.

140 ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' εἰ ἔμοιγε προσέχῃς τὸν νοῦν, σὺν τε  
δύο σκεπτομένῳ τυχὸν εὐρήσομεν.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλὰ προσέχω, ὦ Σώκρατες, εἰς δύναμιν  
τὴν ἐμήν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὠμολογήθη ἡμῖν ὀφθαλμία μὲν  
πᾶσα νόσος εἶναι, νόσος μέντοι οὐκ εἶναι πᾶσα  
ὀφθαλμία;

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Homer, *Il.* x. 224 σὺν τε δὴ ἐρχομένῳ, καὶ τε πρὸ δ  
τοῦ ἐνόησεν ὅπως κέρδος ἔη, "if two go along together, then  
one marks before the other how advantage may be had."

## ALCIBIADES II

with so many madmen as our fellow-citizens, and should not long ago have paid the penalty for it in knocks and blows at their hands, and all the usual proceedings of madmen? Consider now, my wonderful friend, whether the case is not quite different?

ALC. Well, it must be, Socrates. For it looks as though it were not as I thought.

soc. And I think so too. But there is another way of regarding it.

ALC. I wonder what way you mean.

soc. Well, I will tell you. We conceive there are some who are sick, do we not?

ALC. We do, to be sure.

soc. And do you believe that a sick man must necessarily have the gout, or a fever, or ophthalmia? Do you not think that, although he may be afflicted in none of these ways, he may be suffering from some other disease? For surely there are many of them: these are not the only ones.

ALC. I agree.

soc. And is every ophthalmia, in your opinion, a disease?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And is every disease also ophthalmia?

ALC. No, I should think not: still, I am in doubt as to my meaning.

soc. Well, if you will attend to me, "two together"<sup>1</sup> will be searching, and so mayhap we shall find what we seek.

ALC. Nay, but I am attending, Socrates, to the best of my power.

soc. Then we have admitted that while every ophthalmia is a disease, every disease, on the other hand, is not ophthalmia?

ΑΛΚ. Ὁμολογήθη.

ΣΩ. Καὶ ὀρθῶς γέ μοι δοκεῖ ὁμολογηθῆναι. καὶ γὰρ οἱ πυρέττοντες πάντες νοσοῦσιν, οὐ μέντοι οἱ νοσοῦντες πάντες πυρέττουσιν οὐδὲ ποδαγρῶσιν  
 Β οὐδέ γε ὀφθαλμιῶσιν, οἶμαι· ἀλλὰ νόσος μὲν πᾶν τὸ τοιοῦτόν ἐστι, διαφέρειν δέ φασιν οὓς δὴ καλοῦμεν ἰατροὺς τὴν ἀπεργασίαν αὐτῶν. οὐ γὰρ πᾶσαι οὔτε ὅμοιαι οὔτε ὁμοίως διαπράττονται, ἀλλὰ κατὰ τὴν αὐτῆς δύναμιν ἐκάστη· νόσοι μέντοι πᾶσαί εἰσιν. ὥσπερ δημιουργοὺς τινὰς ὑπολαμβάνομεν· ἢ οὔ;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τοὺς σκυτοτόμους καὶ τέκτονας καὶ ἀνδριαντοποιοὺς καὶ ἑτέρους παμπληθεῖς, οὓς τί δεῖ καθ' ἕκαστα λέγειν; ἔχουσι δ' οὖν διειληφότες  
 C δημιουργίας μέρη, καὶ πάντες οὗτοί εἰσι δημιουργοί, οὐ μέντοι εἰσὶ τέκτονές γε οὐδὲ σκυτοτόμοι οὐδ' ἀνδριαντοποιοί, οἳ σύμπαντες εἰσι δημιουργοί.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὕτως μὲν τοίνυν καὶ τὴν ἀφροσύνην διειληφότες εἰσὶ, καὶ τοὺς μὲν πλεῖστον αὐτῆς μέρος ἔχοντας μαινομένους καλοῦμεν, τοὺς δ' ὀλίγον ἔλαττον ἡλιθίους τε καὶ ἐμβροντήτους· οἱ δὲ ἐν εὐφημοτάτοις ὀνόμασι βουλόμενοι κατονομάζειν οἱ μὲν μεγαλοψύχους, οἱ δὲ εὐήθεις, ἕτεροι δὲ  
 D ἀκάκους καὶ ἀπίρους καὶ ἐνεοὺς· εὐρήσεις δὲ καὶ ἕτερα πολλὰ ἀναζητῶν ὀνόματα. πάντα δὲ ταῦτα ἀφροσύνη ἐστί, διαφέρει δέ, ὥσπερ τέχνη

<sup>1</sup> ἀπεργασία here seems to be used for "effect produced" instead of its usual meaning, "fully effecting," "completion."

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ALC. We have.

soc. And our admission seems to me quite right. For everyone in a fever is sick, but yet not everyone who is sick has a fever or the gout or ophthalmia, I take it; though everything of the sort is a disease, but differs—to quote those whom we call doctors—in its manifestation.<sup>1</sup> For they are not all alike, nor of like effect, but each works according to its own faculty, and yet all are diseases. In the same way, we conceive of some men as artisans, do we not?

ALC. Certainly.

soc. That is, cobblers and carpenters and statuaries and a host of others, whom we need not mention in particular; but any way, they have their several departments of craft, and all of them are craftsmen; yet they are not all carpenters or cobblers or statuaries, though these taken together are craftsmen.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. In the same way, then, have men divided un-wisdom also among them, and those who have the largest share of it we call “mad,” and those who have a little less, “dolts” and “idiots”; though people who prefer to use the mildest language term them sometimes “romantic,”<sup>2</sup> sometimes “simple-minded,”<sup>3</sup> or again “innocent,” “inexperienced,” or “obtuse”; and many another name will you find if you look for more. But all these things are un-wisdom, though they differ, as we observed that one

<sup>2</sup> *μεγαλόψυχος* has here declined from “high-souled” or “magnanimous” to something like “Quixotic.”

<sup>3</sup> *εὐήθης*, even in Plato’s time, varied between “good-hearted” and “silly.”

τέχνης ἡμῖν κατεφαίνετο καὶ νόσος νόσου· ἢ πῶς σοι δοκεῖ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοὶ μὲν οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἀπ' ἐκείνου πάλιν ἐπανέλθωμεν. ἦν γὰρ δήπου καὶ ἐν ἀρχῇ τοῦ λόγου, σκεπτέον εἶναι τοὺς ἄφρονάς τε καὶ φρονίμους, τίνες ποτ' εἰσίν. ὠμολόγητο γὰρ εἶναί τινας· ἦ γὰρ οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί, ὠμολόγηται.

Ε ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν τούτους φρονίμους ὑπολαμβάνεις, οἳ ἂν εἰδῶσιν ἅττα δεῖ πράττειν καὶ λέγειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἄφρονας δὲ ποτέρους; ἄρά γε τοὺς μηδέτερα τούτων εἰδότας;

ΑΛΚ. Τούτους.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οἳ γε μὴ εἰδότες μηδέτερα τούτων λήσουσιν αὐτοὺς καὶ λέγοντες καὶ πράττοντες ἅττα μὴ δεῖ;

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

141 ΣΩ. Τούτων μέντοι ἔλεγον, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, καὶ τὸν Οἰδίπουν εἶναι τῶν ἀνθρώπων· εὐρήσεις δ' ἔτι καὶ τῶν νῦν πολλοὺς οὐκ ὀργῇ κεχρημένους, ὥσπερ ἐκείνον, οὐδ' οἰομένους κακὰ σφισιν εὔχεται, ἀλλ' ἀγαθὰ. ἐκείνος μὲν ὥσπερ οὐδ' ἠύχετο, οὐδ' ᾤετο· ἕτεροι δὲ τινές εἰσιν οἳ τὰναντία τούτων πεπόνθασιν. ἐγὼ μὲν γὰρ οἶμαί σε πρῶτον, εἴ σοι ἐμφανῆς γενόμενος ὁ θεὸς πρὸς ὃν τυγχάνεις πορευόμενος, ἐρωτήσῃε, πρὶν ὅτιοῦν εὔξασθαί σε, εἰ ἐξαρκέσει σοι τύραννον γενέσθαι τῆς Ἀθηναίων πόλεως· εἰ δὲ τοῦτο φαῦλον ἠγγήσαιο καὶ μὴ μέγα τι, προσθείη καὶ πάντων τῶν Ἑλλήνων· εἰ δέ σε Β ὀρώη ἔτι ἔλαττον δοκοῦντα ἔχειν, εἰ μὴ καὶ πάσης Εὐρώπης ὑποσταίη σοι, καὶ τοῦτο μὴ μόνον ὑπο-

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art or one disease differs from another. Or how does it strike you ?

ALC. That is my view.

SOC. Then let us turn at this point and retrace our steps. For we said, you know, at the beginning that we must consider who the unwise can be, and who the wise : for we had admitted that there are such persons, had we not ?

ALC. Yes, we have admitted it.

SOC. Then you conceive those to be wise who know what one ought to do and say ?

ALC. I do.

SOC. And which are the unwise ? Those who know neither of these things ?

ALC. The same.

SOC. And those who know neither of these things will say and do unawares what one ought not ?

ALC. Apparently.

SOC. Well, just such a person, as I was saying, Alcibiades, was Oedipus ; and even in our time you will find many who do the same, not in a fit of anger, as he was : they think they pray not for something evil, but for something good. He neither prayed for that, nor thought he did, but there are others who are in the opposite case. For I imagine that if the god to whom you are now going should appear to you and first ask you, before you made any prayer, whether you would be content to become sovereign of the Athenian state and, on your accounting this as something poor and unimportant, should add "and of all the Greeks also" ; and if he saw you were still unsatisfied unless he promised you besides the mastery of all Europe, and should not merely

σταίη, <ἀλλ'><sup>1</sup> αὐθημερόν σου βουλομένου ὡς πάντας αἰσθήσεσθαι, ὅτι Ἀλκιβιάδης ὁ Κλεινίου τύραννός ἐστιν· αὐτὸν οἶμαι ἂν σε ἀπιέναι περιχαρῆ γενόμενον, ὡς τῶν μεγίστων ἀγαθῶν κεκυρηκότα.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγὼ μὲν οἶμαι, ὦ Σώκρατες, κἂν ἄλλον ὄντινοῦν, εἶπερ τοιαῦτα συμβαίῃ αὐτῷ.

Ο ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μέντοι ἀντί γε τῆς σῆς ψυχῆς οὐδ' ἂν τὴν πάντων Ἑλλήνων τε καὶ βαρβάρων χώραν τε καὶ τυραννίδα βουλευθείης σοι γενέσθαι.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ οἶμαι ἔγωγε. πῶς γὰρ ἂν, μηθέν γέ τι μέλλων αὐτοῖς χρήσεσθαι;

ΣΩ. Τί δ' εἰ μέλλοις κακῶς τε καὶ βλαβερῶς χρήσθαι; οὐδ' ἂν οὕτως;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

Ο ΣΩ. Ὅρας οὖν ὡς οὐκ ἀσφαλές οὔτε τὰ διδόμενα εἰκῆ δέχεσθαι γε οὔτε αὐτὸν εὔχεσθαι γενέσθαι, εἴ γέ τις βλάπτεσθαι μέλλοι διὰ ταῦτα ἢ τὸ παράπαν τοῦ βίου ἀπαλλαγῆναι. πολλοὺς δ' ἂν  
 Δ ἔχοιμεν εἰπεῖν, ὅσοι τυραννίδος ἐπιθυμήσαντες ἤδη καὶ σπουδάσαντες τοῦτ' αὐτοῖς παραγενέσθαι, ὡς ἀγαθόν τι πράξαντες, διὰ τὴν τυραννίδα ἐπιβουλευθέντες τὸν βίον ἀφηρέθησαν. οἶμαι δέ σε οὐκ ἀνήκοον εἶναι ἐνιά γε χθιζά τε καὶ πρωῒζα γεγενημένα, ὅτε Ἀρχέλαον τὸν Μακεδόνων τύραννον τὰ παιδικά, ἐρασθέντα τῆς τυραννίδος οὐθὲν ἤττον ἢπερ ἐκείνος τῶν παιδικῶν, ἀπέκτεινε τὸν  
 Ε ἔραστην ὡς τύραννός τε καὶ εὐδαίμων ἀνὴρ ἐσόμενος· κατασχὼν δὲ τρεῖς ἢ τέτταρας ἡμέρας τὴν τυραννίδα πάλιν αὐτὸς ἐπιβουλευθεὶς ὑφ' ἐτέρων τινῶν

<sup>1</sup> ἀλλ' add. Dobree.

<sup>1</sup> Quoted from Homer, *Il.* ii. 303.



## ALCIBIADES II

promise you that, but on the self-same day a recognition by all men, if you so desired, of Alcibiades, son of Cleinias, as their sovereign—I imagine you would actually depart in a transport of delight, as having secured the greatest of goods.

ALC. So would anybody else, I imagine, Socrates, at such a stroke of luck!

soc. But still you would not wish to sacrifice your life even for the territory and sovereignty of all the Greeks and barbarians together.

ALC. I should think not. How could I, without a prospect of making any use of them?

soc. And what if you had a prospect of making an evil and injurious use of them? Not in this case either?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. So you see it is not safe either to accept casually what one is given, or to pray for one's own advancement, if one is going to be injured in consequence, or deprived of one's life altogether. Yet we could tell of many ere now who, having desired sovereignty, and endeavoured to secure it, with the idea of working for their good, have lost their lives by plots which their sovereignty has provoked. And I expect you are not unacquainted with certain events "of a day or two ago,"<sup>1</sup> when Archelaus, the monarch of Macedonia, was slain<sup>2</sup> by his favourite, who was as much in love with the monarchy as Archelaus was with him, and who killed his lover with the expectation of being not only the monarch, but also a happy man: but after holding the monarchy for three or four days he was plotted against by others

<sup>2</sup> This assassination occurred in 399 B.C., the year of Socrates' death.

ἐτελεύτησεν. ὄρᾱς δὴ καὶ τῶν ἡμετέρων πολιτῶν  
 —ταῦτα γὰρ οὐκ ἄλλων ἀκηκόαμεν, ἀλλ' αὐτοὶ  
 παρόντες οἶδαμεν—ὅσοι στρατηγίας ἐπιθυμήσαν-  
 142 τες ἤδη καὶ τυχόντες αὐτῆς οἱ μὲν ἔτι καὶ νῦν  
 φυγάδες τῆσδε τῆς πόλεως εἰσιν, οἱ δὲ τὸν βίον  
 ἐτελεύτησαν· οἱ δὲ ἄριστα δοκοῦντες αὐτῶν πράτ-  
 τειν διὰ πολλῶν κινδύνων ἐλθόντες καὶ φόβων οὐ  
 μόνον ἐν ταύτῃ τῇ στρατηγίᾳ, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ εἰς τὴν  
 ἑαυτῶν κατῆλθον, ὑπὸ τῶν συκοφαντῶν πολιορ-  
 κούμενοι πολιορκίαν οὐδὲν ἐλάττω τῆς ὑπὸ τῶν  
 πολεμίων διετέλεσαν, ὥστε ἐνίους αὐτῶν εὔχεσθαι  
 Β ἀστρατηγῆτους εἶναι μᾶλλον ἢ ἐστρατηγηκένας.  
 εἰ μὲν οὖν ἦσαν οἱ κίνδυνοί τε καὶ πόνοι φέροντες  
 εἰς ὠφέλειαν, εἶχεν ἄν τινα λόγον· νῦν δὲ καὶ πολὺ  
 τούναντίον. εὐρήσεις δὲ καὶ περὶ τέκνων τὸν  
 αὐτὸν τρόπον, εὐξαμένους τινὰς ἤδη γενέσθαι καὶ  
 γενομένων εἰς συμφοράς τε καὶ λύπας τὰς μεγίστας  
 καταστάντας. οἱ μὲν γὰρ μοχθηρῶν διὰ τέλους  
 ὄντων τῶν τέκνων ὅλον τὸν βίον λυπούμενοι δι-  
 ἤγαγον· τοὺς δὲ χρηστῶν μὲν γενομένων, συμφοραῖς  
 C δὲ χρησαμένων ὥστε στερηθῆναι, καὶ τούτους  
 οὐδὲν εἰς ἐλάττονας δυστυχίας καθεστηκότας ἤπερ  
 ἐκείνους, καὶ βουλομένους ἂν ἀγένητα μᾶλλον  
 εἶναι ἢ γενέσθαι. ἀλλ' ὅμως τούτων τε καὶ  
 ἐτέρων πολλῶν ὁμοιοτρόπων τούτοις οὕτω σφόδρα  
 καταδήλων ὄντων, σπάνιον εὐρεῖν ὅστις ἂν ἢ  
 διδομένων ἀπόσχοιτο ἢ μέλλων δι' εὐχῆς τεύ-  
 ξεσθαι παύσαιτο ἂν εὐχόμενος· οἱ δὲ πολλοὶ οὔτε  
 ἂν τυραννίδος διδομένης ἀπόσχοιτο ἂν οὔτε στρατη-  
 D γίας οὐδ' ἐτέρων πολλῶν, ἃ παρόντα βλάπτει

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in his turn, and perished. You have only to look at some of our own citizens—and these are examples that we know, not by hearsay, but by personal observation—who in their time have desired to hold military command and have obtained it, and see how some to this very day are exiles from our city, while others have lost their lives. And even those who are deemed to be faring best have not only gone through many dangers and terrors in holding their command, but on returning home have continued to be as sorely besieged by informers as they were by the enemy, so that some of them wished to heaven that they had been anything but commanders rather than have held such appointments. Of course, if these dangers and toils were conducive to our advantage, there would be some reason for them; but the case is quite the contrary. And you will find it is just the same in regard to children: some people have been known to pray that they might have them, and when they have got them have fallen into the greatest disasters and pains. For some have had children that were utterly bad, and have spent their whole lives in repining; while others, though they had good ones, were bereft of them by disasters that overtook them, and thus were cast into as great misfortune as the others, and wished that no children at all had been born to them. But nevertheless, with all this plain evidence, and a great deal more of a similar kind, before men's eyes, it is rare to find anyone who has either declined what was offered to him or, when he was likely to gain something by prayer, refrained from praying. Most men would not decline the offer of either a monarchy or a generalship or any of the various other things which bring with them harm

μᾶλλον ἢ ὠφελεῖ, ἀλλὰ κἄν εὐξαιντο ἂν γενέσθαι, εἴ τω μὴ παρόντα τυγχάνει· ὀλίγον δὲ ἐπισχόντες ἐνίοτε παλινωδοῦσιν, ἀνευχόμενοι ἅπτ' ἂν τὸ πρῶτον εὐξῶνται. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν ἀπορῶ, μὴ ὡς ἀληθῶς μάτην θεοὺς ἄνθρωποι αἰτιῶνται, ἐξ ἐκείνων φάμενοι κακὰ σφισιν εἶναι· οἱ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ σφῆσιν εἴτε ἀσταθάλαισιν εἴτε ἀφροσύναις χρή

Ε εἰπεῖν, ὑπὲρ μόνον ἄλγε' ἔχουσι. κινδυνεύει γοῦν, ὦ Ἄλκιβιάδη, φρόνιμός τις εἶναι ἐκεῖνος ὁ ποιητής, ὃς δοκεῖ μοι φίλοις ἀνοήτοις τισὶ χρησάμενος, ὄρων αὐτοὺς καὶ πράττοντας καὶ εὐχομένους ἅπερ οὐ βέλτιον ἦν, ἐκείνοις δὲ ἐδόκει, κοινῇ ὑπὲρ ἀπάντων αὐτῶν εὐχὴν ποιήσασθαι· λέγει δέ πως ὠδί·

143 Ζεῦ βασιλεῦ, τὰ μὲν ἐσθλά, φησί, καὶ εὐχομένους καὶ ἀνεύκτοις ἄμμι δίδου, τὰ δὲ δειλὰ<sup>1</sup> καὶ εὐχομένους ἀπαλέξειν

κελεύει. ἐμοὶ μὲν οὖν καλῶς δοκεῖ καὶ ἀσφαλῶς λέγειν ὁ ποιητής· σὺ δ' εἴ τι ἐν νῶ ἔχεις πρὸς ταῦτα, μὴ σιώπα.

ΑΛΚ. Χαλεπόν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἐστὶν ἀντιλέγειν πρὸς τὰ καλῶς εἰρημένα· ἐκεῖνο δ' οὖν ἐννοῶ, ὅσων κακῶν αἰτία ἢ ἄγνοια τοῖς ἀνθρώποις, ὅποτε, ὡς ἔοικε, λελήθαμεν ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς διὰ ταύτην καὶ

Β πράττοντες καὶ τό γ' ἔσχατον εὐχόμενοι ἡμῖν αὐτοῖς τὰ κάκιστα. ὅπερ οὖν οὐδεὶς ἂν οἴηθαι, ἀλλὰ τοῦτό γε πᾶς ἂν οἴοιτο ἰκανὸς εἶναι, αὐτὸς αὐτῶ τὰ βέλτιστα εὐξασθαι, ἀλλ' οὐ τὰ κάκιστα. τοῦτο μὲν γὰρ ὡς ἀληθῶς κατάρρα τινὶ ἄλλ' οὐκ εὐχῇ ὅμοιον ἂν εἶη.

<sup>1</sup> δειλὰ Buttman: δεινὰ MSS.

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rather than benefit, but would even pray to be granted them in cases where they were lacking : but after a little while they often change their tune, and retract all their former prayers. I question therefore if men are not really wrong in blaming the gods as the authors of their ills, when " they themselves by their own presumption "—or unwisdom, shall we say ?—" have gotten them more than destined sorrows." <sup>1</sup> It would seem, at any rate, Alcibiades, that one old poet had some wisdom ; for I conceive it was because he had some foolish friends, whom he saw working and praying for things that were not for their advantage, though supposed to be by them, that he made a common prayer on behalf of them all, in terms something like these :

King Zeus, give unto us what is good, whether we pray or  
pray not ;  
But what is grievous, even if we pray for it, do thou avert.<sup>2</sup>

So then, to my mind the poet spoke well and soundly ; but if you have thought of an answer to his words, do not be silent.

ALC. It is difficult, Socrates, to gainsay what has been well spoken : one thing, however, I do observe—how many evils are caused to men by ignorance, when, as it seems, we are beguiled by her not only into doing, but—worst of all—into praying to be granted the greatest evils. Now that is a thing that no one would suppose of himself ; each of us would rather suppose he was competent to pray for his own greatest good, not his greatest evil. Why, that would seem, in truth, more like some sort of curse than a prayer !

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Homer, *Od.* i. 32.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Anth. Pal.* x. 108.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἴσως, ὦ βέλτιστε, φαίη ἄν τις ἀνὴρ, ὅς ἐμοῦ τε καὶ σοῦ σοφώτερος ὢν τυγχάνοι, οὐκ ὀρθῶς ἡμᾶς λέγειν, οὕτως εἰκῆ ψέγοντας ἄγνοϊαν, C εἴ γε μὴ προσθείημεν τὴν ἔστιν ὢν τε ἄγνοϊαν καὶ ἔστιν οἷς καὶ ἔχουσί πως ἀγαθόν, ὥσπερ ἐκείνοις κακόν.

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς λέγεις; ἔστι γὰρ ὅτιοῦν πρᾶγμα ὅτῳ δὴ ὁπωσοῦν ἔχοντι ἄμεινον ἀγνοεῖν ἢ γιγνώσκειν;

ΣΩ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ· σοὶ δ' οὐ;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μέντοι μὰ Δία.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ μὴν οὐδ' ἐκείνό σου καταγνώσομαι, ἐθέλειν ἄν σε πρὸς τὴν ἑαυτοῦ μητέρα διαπεπρᾶχθαι, ἅπερ Ὀρέστην φασὶ καὶ τὸν Ἀλκμέωνα καὶ εἰ D δὴ τινες ἄλλοι ἐκείνοις τυγχάνουσι ταῦτά διαπεπραγμένοι.

ΑΛΚ. Εὐφῆμαι πρὸς Διός, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Οὗτοι τὸν λέγοντα, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, ὡς οὐκ ἄν ἐθέλοις σοι ταῦτα πεπρᾶχθαι, εὐφημεῖν δεῖ σε κελεύειν, ἀλλὰ μᾶλλον πολὺ, εἴ τις τὰ ἐναντία λέγοι· ἐπειδὴ οὕτω σοι δοκεῖ σφόδρα δεινὸν εἶναι τὸ πρᾶγμα, ὥστ' οὐδὲ ῥητέον εἶναι οὕτως εἰκῆ· δοκεῖς δ' ἄν τὸν Ὀρέστην, εἰ ἐτύγχανε φρόνιμος ὢν καὶ εἰδὼς ὅ τι βέλτιστον ἦν αὐτῷ πράττειν, τολμηῆσαι ἄν τι τούτων διαπράξασθαι;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

E ΣΩ. Οὐδέ γε ἄλλον οἶμαι οὐδένα.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μέντοι.

ΣΩ. Κακὸν ἄρ', ὡς ἔοικεν, ἔστιν ἢ τοῦ βελτίστου ἄγνοια καὶ τὸ ἀγνοεῖν τὸ βέλτιστον.

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

## ALCIBIADES II

soc. But perhaps, my excellent friend, some person who is wiser than either you or I may say we are wrong to be so free with our abuse of ignorance, unless we can add that it is ignorance of certain things, and is a good to certain persons in certain conditions, as to those others it is an evil.

ALC. How do you mean? Can there be anything of which it is better for anybody, in any condition whatsoever, to be ignorant than cognisant?

soc. I believe so; and do not you?

ALC. No, indeed, upon my word.

soc. But surely I shall not have to tax you with an inclination to commit such an act against your own mother as Orestes and Alcmaeon, and any others who have followed their example, are said to have committed against theirs.

ALC. No unlucky words, in Heaven's name, Socrates!

soc. Why, it is not the person who says, Alcibiades, that you would not like to be guilty of such an act, whom you should bid avoid unlucky words, but much rather him who might say the contrary; since the act seems to you so very dreadful as to be unfit even for such casual mention. But do you think that Orestes, if he had had all his wits about him and had known what was best for him to do, would have brought himself to commit any act of the sort?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Nor would anyone else, I imagine.

ALC. No.

soc. Then it seems that ignorance of what is best, and to be ignorant of the best, is a bad thing.

ALC. I agree.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἐκείνω καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἅπασιν;  
 ΑΛΚ. Φημί.

ΣΩ. Ἔτι τοίνυν καὶ τόδε ἐπισκεψώμεθα· εἴ σοι αὐτίκα μάλα παρασταίῃ, οἰηθέντι βέλτιον εἶναι, Περικλέα τὸν σεαυτοῦ ἐπίτροπόν τε καὶ φίλον, ἐγχειρίδιον λαβόντα, ἐλθόντα ἐπὶ τὰς θύρας,  
 144 εἰπεῖν εἰ ἔνδον ἐστί, βουλόμενον ἀποκτεῖναι αὐτὸν ἐκείνον, ἄλλον δὲ μηδένα· οἱ δὲ φαῖεν ἔνδον εἶναι— καὶ οὐ λέγω ἐθέλειν ἄν σε τούτων τι πράττειν· ἀλλ' εἰ, οἶμαι, δόξει σοι, ὅπερ οὐθὲν κωλύει δήπου τῷ γε ἀγνοοῦντι τὸ βέλτιστον παραστήναι ποτὲ δόξαν, ὥστε οἰηθῆναι καὶ τὸ κάκιστόν ποτε βέλτιστον εἶναι· ἢ οὐκ ἂν δοκεῖ σοι;

ΑΛΚ. Πάνυ μὲν οὔν.

ΣΩ. Εἰ οὖν παρελθὼν εἴσω καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν  
 Β ἐκείνον ἀγνοήσῃς τε καὶ οἰηθείης ἄν ἄλλον εἶναί τινα, ἂρ' ἔτι ἂν αὐτὸν τολμήσῃς ἀποκτεῖναι;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μὰ τὸν Δία, οὐκ ἂν μοι δοκῶ.

ΣΩ. Οὐ γὰρ δήπου τὸν ἐντυχόντα, ἀλλ' αὐτὸν ἐκείνον ὄν ἡβούλου. ἦ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ εἰ πολλάκις ἐγχειροῖς, αἰεὶ δὲ ἀγνοοῖς τὸν Περικλέα, ὅποτε μέλλοις τοῦτο πράττειν, οὔποτε ἂν ἐπίθιοιο αὐτῷ.

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; τὸν Ὀρέστην δοκεῖς ἂν ποτε τῇ μητρὶ ἐπιθέσθαι, εἴ γε ὡσαύτως ἠγνόησεν;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ οἶμαι ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Οὐ γὰρ δήπου οὐδ' ἐκείνος τὴν προστυχοῦ-



## ALCIBIADES II

soc. And not only for the person himself, but for everyone else ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then let us consider this further case. Suppose it should quite suddenly occur to your mind that you had better take a dagger and go to the door of Pericles, your own guardian and friend, and ask if he were at home, with the design of killing just him and no one else, and his servants said he was at home : now, I do not say you would be inclined to do any such thing, but I suppose, if you are under the impression which at some moment may well be present, surely, to the mind of a man who is ignorant of the best—that what is really the worst is best at some moment—or do you not agree ?

ALC. Quite so.

soc. Well then, if you went indoors and saw Pericles himself, but did not know him, and thought he was somebody else, would you still venture to kill him ?

ALC. No, upon my word, I should think not.

soc. For your man was, I presume, not anyone you met, but that particular person whom you wished to kill ?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And although you might make a number of attempts, if you always failed to know Pericles when you were about to commit the act, you would never attack him.

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Well now, do you suppose that Orestes would ever have attacked his mother if he had similarly failed to know her ?

ALC. I do not think he would.

soc. For presumably he, too, had no intention

PLATO

σαν γυναίκα οὐδὲ τὴν ὄτουον μητέρα διανοεῖτο ἀποκτεῖναι, ἀλλὰ τὴν αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ.

ΑΛΚ. Ἔστι ταῦτα.

ΣΩ. Ἄγνοεῖν ἄρα τά γε τοιαῦτα βέλτιον τοῖς οὕτω διακειμένοις καὶ τοιαύτας δόξας ἔχουσιν.

ΑΛΚ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Ὅρᾶς οὖν, ὅτι ἢ ἔστιν ὧν τε ἄγνοια καὶ ἔστιν οἷς καὶ ἔχουσί πως ἀγαθόν, ἀλλ' οὐ κακόν, ὥσπερ ἄρτι σοι ἐδόκει;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐοικεν.

D ΣΩ. Ἔτι τοίνυν εἰ βούλει τὸ μετὰ τοῦτο ἐπισκοπεῖν, ἄτοπον ἂν ἴσως σοι δόξειεν εἶναι.

ΑΛΚ. Τί μάλιστα, ὦ Σώκρατες;

ΣΩ. Ὅτι, ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν, κινδυνεύει τό γε τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν κτῆμα, εἴαν τις ἄνευ τοῦ βελτίστου κεκτημένος ἦ, ὀλιγάκις μὲν ὠφελεῖν, βλάπτειν δὲ τὰ πλείω τὸν ἔχοντα αὐτό.<sup>1</sup> σκόπει δὲ ὧδε. ἄρ' οὐκ ἀναγκαῖόν σοι δοκεῖ εἶναι, ὅταν τι μέλλωμεν ἢτοι πράττειν ἢ λέγειν, οἰηθῆναι δεῖν πρῶτον ἡμᾶς εἰδέναί ἢ τῶ ὄντι εἰδέναί τοῦθ' ὃ ἂν  
E προχειροτέρως μέλλωμεν ἢ λέγειν ἢ πράττειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οἱ ῥήτορες αὐτίκα ἢτοι εἰδότες συμβουλεύειν ἢ οἰηθέντες εἰδέναί συμβουλεύουσιν ἡμῖν ἕκαστοτε, οἱ μὲν περὶ πολέμου τε καὶ εἰρήνης, οἱ δὲ περὶ τειχῶν οἰκοδομίας ἢ λιμένων κατασκευῆς·  
145 ἐνὶ δὲ λόγῳ, ὅσα δὴ ποτε ἢ πόλις πράττει πρὸς ἄλλην πόλιν ἢ αὐτὴ καθ' αὐτήν, ἀπὸ τῆς τῶν ῥητόρων συμβουλῆς ἅπαντα γίννεται.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ὅρα τοίνυν καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ τούτοις.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄν δυνηθῶ.

## ALCIBIADES II

of killing the first woman he met, or anybody else's mother, but only his own.

ALC. That is so.

soc. Then to be ignorant in such matters is better for those who are so disposed and have formed such resolves.

ALC. Apparently.

soc. So you see that ignorance of certain things is for certain persons in certain states a good, not an evil, as you supposed just now.

ALC. It seems to be.

soc. Then if you care to consider the sequel of this, I daresay it will surprise you.

ALC. What may that be, Socrates?

soc. I mean that, generally speaking, it rather looks as though the possession of the sciences as a whole, if it does not include possession of the science of the best, will in a few instances help, but in most will harm, the owner. Consider it this way: must it not be the case, in your opinion, that when we are about to do or say anything, we first suppose that we know, or do really know, the thing we so confidently intend to say or do?

ALC. I think so.

soc. Well, take the orators, for example: they either know, or think they know, how to advise us on various occasions—some about war and peace, and others about building walls or fitting up harbours; and in a word, whatever the city does to another city or within herself, all comes about by the advice of the orators.

ALC. That is true.

soc. Then observe the consequence.

ALC. If I am able.

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<sup>1</sup> αὐτό Schneider, αὐτά MSS.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Καλεῖς γὰρ δήπου φρονίμους τε καὶ ἄφρονας;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τοὺς μὲν πολλοὺς ἄφρονας, τοὺς δ' ὀλίγους φρονίμους;

ΑΛΚ. Οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν πρὸς τι ἀποβλέπων ἀμφοτέρους;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

B ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν τὸν τοιοῦτον συμβουλεύειν εἰδότα, χωρὶς τοῦ πότερον βέλτιον καὶ ὅτε βέλτιον, φρόνιμον καλεῖς;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Οὐδέ γε, οἶμαι, ὅστις τὸ πολεμεῖν αὐτὸ οἶδε χωρὶς τοῦ ὁπότε βέλτιον καὶ τοσοῦτον χρόνον ὅσον βέλτιον. ἦ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οὐδὲ εἴ τις τινα ἀποκτινῦναι οἶδεν οὐδὲ χρήματα ἀφαιρεῖσθαι καὶ φυγάδα ποιεῖν τῆς πατρίδος, χωρὶς τοῦ ὁπότε βέλτιον καὶ ὄντινα βέλτιον;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ μέντοι.

C ΣΩ. Ὅστις ἄρα τι τῶν τοιούτων οἶδεν, εἴ μὲν παρέπηται αὐτῷ ἢ τοῦ βελτίστου ἐπιστήμη—αὕτη δ' ἦν ἢ αὐτῇ δήπου ἤπερ καὶ ἢ τοῦ ὠφελίμου· ἦ γάρ;

ΑΛΚ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Φρόνιμον δέ γε αὐτὸν φήσομεν καὶ ἀποχρῶντα σύμβουλον καὶ τῇ πόλει καὶ αὐτὸν αὐτῷ· τὸν δὲ μὴ τοιοῦτον<sup>1</sup> τὰναντία τούτων. ἦ πῶς δοκεῖ;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐμοὶ μὲν οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Τί δ' εἴ τις ἱππεύειν ἢ τοξεύειν οἶδεν, ἢ αὖ πυκτεύειν ἢ παλαίειν ἢ τι τῆς ἄλλης ἀγωνίας

<sup>1</sup> τοιοῦτον J. G. Schneider: ποιῶντα MSS.

## ALCIBIADES II

soc. Why, surely you call men either wise or unwise?

ALC. I do.

soc. And the many unwise, and the few wise?

ALC. Precisely.

soc. And in either case you name them in reference to something?

ALC. Yes.

soc. Then do you call a man wise who knows how to give advice, without knowing whether and when it is better to act upon it?

ALC. No, indeed.

soc. Nor, I conceive, a man who knows what war is in itself, without knowing when or for how long a time it is better to make war?

ALC. Agreed.

soc. Nor, again, a man who knows how to kill another, or seize his property, or make him an exile from his native land, without knowing when or to whom it is better so to behave?

ALC. No, to be sure.

soc. Then it is a man who knows something of this sort, and is assisted by knowledge of what is best,—and this is surely the same as knowledge of the useful, is it not?

ALC. Yes.

soc. And we shall call him wise, and a competent adviser both of the city and of his own self; but a man not so qualified we shall call the opposite of these. How do you think?

ALC. I agree.

soc. And what of a man who knows how to ride or shoot, or else to box or wrestle or contend in any

PLATO

Δ ἢ καὶ ἄλλο τι τῶν τοιούτων ὅσα τέχνη οἶδαμεν, τί καλεῖς ὃς ἂν εἰδῆ τὸ κατὰ ταύτην τὴν τέχνην βέλτιον γιγνόμενον; ἂρ' οὐ τὸν κατὰ τὴν ἵππικὴν ἵππικόν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Τὸν δέ γε, οἶμαι, κατὰ τὴν πυκτικὴν πυκτικόν, τὸν δὲ κατ' αὐλητικὴν αὐλητικόν, καὶ τᾶλλα δήπου ἀνά λόγον τούτοις· ἢ ἄλλως πως;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐκ, ἀλλ' οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Δοκεῖ οὖν σοι ἀναγκαῖον εἶναι τὸν περὶ τούτων τι ἐπιστήμονα ὄντα ἄρα καὶ ἄνδρα φρόνιμον εἶναι, ἢ πολλοῦ φήσομεν ἐνδεῖν;

ΑΛΚ. Πολλοῦ μέντοι νῆ Δία.

ΣΩ. Ποίαν οὖν οἶεῖ πολιτείαν εἶναι τοξοτῶν τε ἀγαθῶν καὶ αὐλητῶν, ἔτι δὲ καὶ ἀθλητῶν τε καὶ τῶν ἄλλων τεχνιτῶν, ἀναμεμιγμένων δ' ἐν τοιούτοις οὖς<sup>1</sup> ἄρτι εἰρήκαμεν τῶν τε αὐτὸ τὸ πολεμεῖν εἰδόντων καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ ἀποκτιννύειν, πρὸς δὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν ῥητορικῶν πολιτικὸν φύσημα φυσώντων, ἀπάντων δὲ τούτων ὄντων ἄνευ τῆς τοῦ βελτίστου ἐπιστήμης καὶ τοῦ εἰδότος, ὅποτε βέλτιον ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ τούτων 146 χρῆσθαι καὶ πρὸς τίνα;

ΑΛΚ. Φαῦλην τινὰ ἔγωγε, ὦ Σώκρατες.

ΣΩ. Φαίης γε ἂν, οἶμαι, ὅποταν ὁρώης ἕνα ἕκαστον αὐτῶν φιλοτιμούμενον τε καὶ νέμοντα τὸ πλεῖστον τῆς πολιτείας

τούτῳ μέρος,

ἢ' αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ τυγχάνη κράτιστος ὢν.

λέγω δὲ τὸ κατ' αὐτὴν τὴν τέχνην βέλτιστον

<sup>1</sup> οὖς Dobree: οἷς MSS.

## ALCIBIADES II

other sport, or do anything that we know by rule of art? What do you call him who knows what is better done by rule of that particular art? Do you not say that he who goes by the rules of riding is a good rider?

ALC. I do.

soc. And the rules of boxing, I suppose, make a good boxer, and those of flute-playing a good flute-player, and so, on the same lines,<sup>1</sup> I presume, with the rest; or is there any difference?

ALC. No, it is as you say.

soc. Then do you think it inevitable that he who has some knowledge about these things should also be a wise man, or shall we say he comes far short of it?

ALC. Far short of it, I declare.

soc. Then what sort of state do you suppose it would be, where the people were good bowmen and flute-players, together with athletes and artists in general, and mingled with these the men whom we have just mentioned as knowing war in itself and slaughter in itself, and orator-windbags too with their political bluster, but all of them lacked this knowledge of the best, and none knew when or upon whom it was better to employ their respective arts?

ALC. A paltry one, I should call it, Socrates.

soc. Yes, you would, I expect, when you saw each one of them vying with the other and assigning the largest part in the conduct of the state to that

Wherein himself is found most excellent,<sup>2</sup>

I mean, what is done best by rule of his particular

<sup>1</sup> ἀνά λόγον occurs, with the genitive, in *Tim.* 29 c; the normal Platonic phrase for our passage is ὡσαύτως.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Gorg.* 484 ε (Eurip. *Antiope*, fr.).

PLATO

γιγνόμενον· τοῦ δὲ τῆ πόλει τε καὶ αὐτὸν αὐτῷ  
 βελτίστου ὄντος τὰ πολλὰ διημαρτηκότα, ἅτε  
 οἶμαι, ἄνευ νοῦ δόξῃ πεπιστευκότα. οὕτως δὲ  
 B τούτων ἐχόντων, ἅρ' οὐκ ἂν ὀρθῶς λέγοιμεν  
 φάντες πολλῆς ταραχῆς τε καὶ ἀνομίας μεστήν  
 εἶναι τὴν τοιαύτην πολιτείαν;

ΑΛΚ. Ὄρθῶς μέντοι νῆ Δία.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἀναγκαῖον ἡμῖν ἐδόκει οἰηθῆναι  
 δεῖν πρῶτον ἡμᾶς εἰδέναί ἢ τῷ ὄντι εἰδέναί τοῦτο,  
 ὃ ἂν προχείρως μέλλωμεν ἢ πράττειν ἢ λέγειν;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐδόκει.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν κἂν μὲν πράττη ἅ τις οἶδεν ἢ δοκεῖ  
 εἰδέναί, παρέπηται δὲ τὸ ὠφελίμως, καὶ λυσι-  
 C τελοῦντως ἡμᾶς ἔξειν καὶ τῆ πόλει καὶ αὐτὸν  
 αὐτῷ;

ΑΛΚ. Πῶς γὰρ οὔ;

ΣΩ. Ἐὰν δέ γ', οἶμαι, τᾶναντία τούτων, οὔτε τῆ  
 πόλει οὔτ' αὐτὸν αὐτῷ;

ΑΛΚ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; καὶ νῦν ἔτι ὡσαύτως σοι δοκεῖ ἢ  
 ἄλλως πως;

ΑΛΚ. Οὔκ; ἀλλ' οὔτως.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν ἔφησθα καλεῖν τοὺς μὲν πολλοὺς  
 ἄφρονας, τοὺς δ' ὀλίγους φρονίμους;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγώ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν φαμεν πάλιν τοὺς πολλοὺς διημαρτη-  
 κένοι τοῦ βελτίστου, ὡς τὰ πολλά γε, οἶμαι, ἄνευ  
 νοῦ δόξῃ πεπιστευκότας.

D ΑΛΚ. Φαμέν γάρ.

ΣΩ. Λυσιτελεῖ ἄρα τοῖς πολλοῖς μήτ' εἰδέναί  
 μηδὲν μήτ' οἶεσθαι εἰδέναί, εἴπερ γε μᾶλλον προ-  
 θυμήσονται πράττειν μὲν ταῦτα, ἅττ' ἂν εἰδῶσι



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art—while he is entirely off the track of what is best for the state and for himself, because, I conceive, he has put his trust in opinion apart from intelligence. In these circumstances, should we not be right in saying that such a state is one great mass of turmoil and lawlessness?

ALC. We should, upon my word.

SOC. And we took it to be necessary that we should first think we know, or really know, anything that we confidently intend either to do or to say?

ALC. We did.

SOC. And if a man does what he knows or thinks he knows, and is assisted by knowing how to make it beneficial, we shall find him profitable both to the city and to himself?

ALC. Certainly.

SOC. But if, I suppose, he does the contrary, he will not be so either to the city or to himself?

ALC. No, indeed.

SOC. Well then, do you still take the same view now as before, or do you think differently?

ALC. No, I take the same view.

SOC. And you said you called the many unwise, and the few wise?

ALC. I did.

SOC. So now we repeat our statement that the many have missed getting the best because in most cases, I conceive, they have put their trust in opinion apart from intelligence.

ALC. Yes.

SOC. Then it is an advantage to the many neither to know nor to think they know anything, if they are going to be specially eager to do what they know or

ἢ οἰηθῶσιν εἰδέναί, πράττοντες δὲ βλάπτεσθαι τὰ πλείω μᾶλλον ἢ ὠφελείσθαι.

ΑΔΚ. Ἀληθέστατα λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ὅρας οὖν, ὅτε ἔφη κινδυνεύειν τό γε  
 Ε τῶν ἄλλων ἐπιστημῶν κτῆμα, εἴαν τις ἄνευ τῆς τοῦ  
 βελτίστου ἐπιστήμης κεκτημένος ἦ, ὀλιγάκις μὲν  
 ὠφελεῖν, βλάπτειν δὲ τὰ πλείω τὸν ἔχοντ' αὐτό,  
 ἅρ' οὐχὶ τῷ ὄντι ὀρθῶς ἐφαινόμην λέγων;

ΑΔΚ. Καὶ εἰ μὴ τότε, ἀλλὰ νῦν μοι δοκεῖ, ὦ Σώ-  
 κρατες.

ΣΩ. Δεῖ ἄρα καὶ πόλιν καὶ ψυχὴν τὴν μέλλουσαν  
 ὀρθῶς βιώσεσθαι ταύτης τῆς ἐπιστήμης ἀντέχε-  
 σθαι, ἀτεχνῶς ὥσπερ ἀσθενοῦντα ἰατροῦ ἢ τινος  
 κυβερνήτου τὸν ἀσφαλῶς μέλλοντα πλεῖν. ἄνευ  
 147 γὰρ ταύτης,<sup>1</sup> ὅσῳπερ ἂν λαμπρότερον<sup>2</sup> ἐπουρίση τὸ  
 τῆς τύχης<sup>3</sup> ἢ περὶ χρημάτων κτῆσιν ἢ σώματος  
 ῥώμην ἢ καὶ ἄλλο τι τῶν τοιούτων, τοσοῦτῳ  
 μείζω ἁμαρτήματα ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀναγκαῖόν ἐστιν, ὡς  
 εἴκοι, γίνεσθαι. ὁ δὲ δὴ τὴν καλουμένην πολυ-  
 μαθίαν τε καὶ πολυτεχνίαν κεκτημένος, ὀρφανὸς δὲ  
 ὢν ταύτης τῆς ἐπιστήμης, ἀγόμενος δὲ ὑπὸ μιᾶς  
 ἐκάστης τῶν ἄλλων, ἅρ' οὐχὶ τῷ ὄντι δικαίως  
 πολλῷ χειμῶνι χρήσεται, ἅτ', οἶμαι, ἄνευ κυβερ-  
 νήτου διατελῶν ἐν πελάγει, χρόνον οὐ μακρὸν βίου  
 Β θέων; ὥστε συμβαίνειν μοι δοκεῖ καὶ ἐνταῦθα τὸ  
 τοῦ ποιητοῦ, ὃ λέγει κατηγορῶν πού τινος, ὡς  
 ἄρα πολλὰ μὲν ἠπίστατο ἔργα, κακῶς δέ, φησὶν,  
 ἠπίστατο πάντα.

ΑΔΚ. Καὶ τί δὴ ποτε συμβαίνει τὸ τοῦ ποιητοῦ,

<sup>1</sup> ἄνευ γὰρ ταύτης transp. Lennep: ante ἢ περὶ χρημάτων MSS.

<sup>2</sup> λαμπρότερον Lennep: μὴ πρότερον MSS.

<sup>3</sup> τύχης Stallbaum: ψυχῆς MSS.

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think they know, but are likely on the whole, in doing it, to be injured rather than benefited.

ALC. That is very true.

SOC. So you see that when I said it looked as though the possession of the sciences as a whole, where it did not include the science of the best, in a few cases helped, but in most harmed the owner, I was evidently right in very truth, was I not ?

ALC. Though I did not then, I think so now, Socrates.

SOC. Hence the state or soul that is to live aright must hold fast to this knowledge, exactly as a sick man does to a doctor, or as he who would voyage safely does to a pilot. For without this, the more briskly it is wafted by fortune either to the acquisition of wealth or to bodily strength or aught else of the sort, the greater will be the mistakes in which these things, it would seem, must needs involve it. And he who has acquired the so-called mastery of learning and arts, but is destitute of this knowledge and impelled by this or that one among those others, is sure to meet with much rough weather, as he truly deserves ; since, I imagine, he must continue without a pilot on the high seas, and has only the brief span of his life in which to run his course. So that his case aptly fits the saying of the poet, in which he complains of somebody or other that

Full many crafts he knew : but still  
He knew them all so very ill.<sup>1</sup>

ALC. Why, how on earth is the poet's saying

<sup>1</sup> Quoted from the mock-epic *Margites*, of which only this and five other lines have survived. The hero, Margites, became the proverbial type of a blundering idiot, and the poem was generally attributed to Homer

ὦ Σώκρατες; ἐμοὶ μὲν γὰρ οὐδ' ὅτιοῦν δοκεῖ πρὸς λόγον εἰρηκέναι.

ΣΩ. Καὶ μάλα γε πρὸς λόγον· ἀλλ' αἰνίττεται, ὦ βέλτιστε, καὶ οὗτος καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι δὲ ποιηταὶ σχεδόν τι πάντες. ἔστι τε γὰρ φύσει ποιητικὴ ἢ σύμπασα αἰνιγματώδης καὶ οὐ τοῦ προστυχόντος ἀνδρὸς γνωρίσαι· ἔτι δὲ πρὸς τῷ φύσει τοιαύτη εἶναι, ὅταν λάβηται ἀνδρὸς φθονεροῦ τε καὶ μὴ βουλομένου ἡμῖν ἐνδείκνυσθαι ἀλλ' ἀποκρύπτεσθαι ὅτι μάλιστα τὴν αὐτοῦ σοφίαν, ὑπερφυῶς δὴ τὸ χρῆμα ὡς δύσγνωστον φαίνεται, ὃ τί ποτε νοοῦσιν ἕκαστος αὐτῶν. οὐ γὰρ δήπου Ὁμηρόν γε τὸν θειότατόν τε καὶ σοφώτατον ποιητὴν ἀγνοεῖν δοκεῖς, ὡς οὐχ οἶόν τε ἦν ἐπίστασθαι κακῶς· ἐκεῖνος γὰρ ἔστιν ὁ λέγων τὸν Μαργίτην πολλὰ μὲν ἐπίστασθαι, κακῶς δέ, D φησί, πάντα ἠπίστατο<sup>1</sup>. ἀλλ' αἰνίττεται, οἶμαι, παράγων τὸ κακῶς μὲν ἀντὶ τοῦ κακοῦ, τὸ δὲ ἠπίστατο ἀντὶ τοῦ ἐπίστασθαι· γίννεται οὖν συντεθὲν ἕξω μὲν τοῦ μέτρου, ἔστι δ' ὃ γε βούλεται, ὡς πολλὰ μὲν ἠπίστατο ἔργα, κακὸν δὲ ἦν ἐπίστασθαι αὐτῷ πάντα ταῦτα. δῆλον οὖν ὅτι εἶπερ ἦν αὐτῷ κακὸν τὸ πολλὰ εἰδέναι, φαῦλός τις ὢν ἐτύγχανεν, εἶπερ γε πιστεύειν δεῖ τοῖς προειρημένοις λόγοις.

E ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' ἐμοὶ μὲν δοκεῖ, ὦ Σώκρατες· ἢ χαλεπῶς γ' ἂν ἄλλοις τισὶ πιστεύσαιμι λόγοις, εἶπερ μηδὲ τούτοις.

ΣΩ. Καὶ ὀρθῶς γέ σοι δοκεῖ.

ΑΛΚ. Πάλιν αὖ μοι δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ φέρε πρὸς Διός—ὄρας γὰρ δήπου τὴν ἀπορίαν ὅση τε καὶ οἷα· ταύτης δὴ καὶ σύ μοι

<sup>1</sup> ἠπίστατο Bekker: ἐπίστασθαι mss.

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apposite, Socrates? For to my mind it has nothing to do with the point.

soc. It is very much to the point: but he, good sir, like almost every other poet, speaks in riddles. For poetry as a whole is by nature inclined to riddling, and it is not every man who can apprehend it. And furthermore, besides having this natural tendency, when it gets hold of a grudging person who wishes not to show forth to us his own wisdom but to conceal it as much as possible, we find it an extraordinarily difficult matter to make out whatever this or that one of them may mean. For surely you do not suppose that Homer, divinest and wisest of poets, did not know it was impossible to know ill; for it is he who says of Margites that he knew many things, but knew them all ill: but it is a riddle, I think, in which he has made "ill" stand for "evil," and "knew" for "to know." So if we put it together, letting the metre go, indeed, but grasping his meaning, we get this: "Full many crafts he knew, but it was evil for him to know them all."<sup>1</sup> Then clearly, if it was evil for him to know many things, he was in fact a paltry fellow, assuming we are to believe what we have previously argued.

alc. But I think we may, Socrates: at least, if I cannot believe those arguments of ours, I shall find it hard to trust any others.

soc. And you are right in so thinking.

alc. I repeat that I think so.

soc. But come now, in Heaven's name—for I suppose you see how great and strange is our perplexity, in which you, as it seems to me, have your

unnatural meaning is quite characteristic of Socrates. Cf. *Protag.* 343-7.

δοκεῖς κεκοινωνηκέναι· μεταβαλλόμενος γέ τοι ἄνω καὶ κάτω οὐδ' ὅτιοῦν παύῃ, ἀλλ' ὅ τι ἂν μάλιστα σοι δόξῃ, τοῦτο καὶ ἐκδεδυκέναι αὐ καὶ 148 οὐκέτι ὡσαύτως δοκεῖν—εἰ οὖν σοί γ' ἔτι καὶ νῦν ἐμφανῆς γενόμενος ὁ θεός, πρὸς ὃν τυγχάνεις πορευόμενος, ἐρωτήσῃ, πρὶν ὅτιοῦν εὐξασθαί σε, εἰ ἐξαρκέσει σοι ἐκείνων τι γενέσθαι ὧν περ καὶ ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐλέγετο, εἴτε αὐτῷ σοι ἐπιτρέψειεν εὐξασθαι, τί ποτ' ἂν οἶε ἢ τῶν παρ' ἐκείνου διδομένων λαμβάνων ἢ αὐτὸς εὐξάμενος γενέσθαι τοῦ καιροῦ τυχεῖν;

ΑΔΚ. Ἄλλὰ μὰ τοὺς θεούς, ἐγὼ μὲν οὐθὲν ἂν ἔχοιμί σοι εἰπεῖν, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὕτως· ἀλλὰ μάργον Β τί μοι δοκεῖ εἶναι, καὶ ὡς ἀληθῶς πολλῆς φυλακῆς, ὅπως μὴ λήσει τις αὐτὸν εὐχόμενος μὲν κακά, δοκῶν δὲ τὰγαθά, ἔπειτ' ὀλίγον ἐπισχών, ὅπερ καὶ σὺ ἔλεγες, παλινωδῆ, ἀνευχόμενος ἄττ' ἂν τὸ πρῶτον εὐξῆται.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν οὐχὶ εἰδώς τι πλεον ἡμῶν ὁ ποιητής, οὐ καὶ ἐν ἀρχῇ τοῦ λόγου ἐπεμνήσθην, τὰ δειλὰ<sup>1</sup> καὶ εὐχομένοις ἀπαλέξειεν ἐκέλευεν;

ΑΔΚ. Ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Τοῦτον μὲν τοίνυν, ὦ Ἀλκιβιάδη, καὶ C Λακεδαιμόνιοι τὸν ποιητὴν ἐζηλωκότες, εἴτε καὶ αὐτοὶ οὕτως ἐπεσκεμμένοι, καὶ ἰδία καὶ δημοσία ἐκάστοτε παραπλησίαν εὐχὴν εὐχονται, τὰ καλὰ ἐπὶ τοῖς ἀγαθοῖς τοὺς θεοὺς διδόναι κελεύοντες αὐ σφίσιν αὐτοῖς· πλείω<sup>2</sup> δ' οὐδεὶς ἂν ἐκείνων εὐξαμένων ἀκούσειεν. τοιγαροῦν εἰς τὸ παρήκον τοῦ

<sup>1</sup> δειλὰ Buttman: δεινὰ, δηλα MSS.

<sup>2</sup> πλείω Burnet: πλεον, πλείων MSS.

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share ; for you change about from this side to that without settling down for a moment, but as soon as you are firmly convinced of a thing you seem to slip out of it again and cease to hold the same view—well, if the god to whom you are going should even now appear to you and ask, before you uttered any prayer, whether you would be content to obtain one of those things which were mentioned at the beginning, or whether he should leave you to pray as you were, how do you suppose you would make the best of your chance—by accepting his offer, or by praying for something on your own account ?

ALC. Well; by the gods, I could not answer your question, Socrates, offhand. Why, I take it to be a fatuous request,<sup>1</sup> when it is really a case for great caution lest one pray unawares for what is evil while thinking it to be one's good, and then after a little while, as you were saying,<sup>2</sup> one change one's tune and retract all one's former prayers.

SOC. And did not the poet whom I quoted at the beginning of our discussion<sup>3</sup> know more than we, when he bade us pray for the averting of what is grievous, even though we pray for it ?

ALC. I think so.

SOC. Then it is their admiration of this poet, Alcibiades, or perhaps the result of their own study, that causes the Spartans to offer a similar prayer whether the occasion be private or public—that the gods will give them for their own benefit the beautiful as well as the good : more than this no one can ever hear them pray for. The consequence is that to the

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.*, that I should answer offhand. The pun in *μάργον*, alluding to the "fatuous" Margites, cannot be rendered in English.

<sup>2</sup> 142 D.

<sup>3</sup> 143 A.

χρόνου οὐδένων ἦττον εὐτυχεῖς εἰσὶν ἄνθρωποι· εἰ δ' ἄρα καὶ συμβέβηκεν αὐτοῖς ὥστε μὴ πάντα εὐτυχεῖν, ἀλλ' οὖν οὐ διὰ τὴν ἐκείνων εὐχὴν· ἐπὶ τοῖς θεοῖς δ' ἐστὶν ὥστε, οἶμαι, καὶ διδόναι ἅττ' ἂν τις εὐχόμενος τυγχάνῃ καὶ τὰναντία τούτων.

Βούλομαι δέ σοι καὶ ἕτερόν τι διηγήσασθαι, ὃ ποτε ἤκουσα τῶν πρεσβυτέρων τινῶν, ὡς Ἀθηναίοις καὶ Λακεδαιμονίοις διαφορᾶς γενομένης συνέβαινε ἀεὶ τῇ πόλει ἡμῶν ὥστε καὶ κατὰ γῆν καὶ κατὰ θάλατταν, ὅποτε μάχη γένοιτο, δυστυχεῖν καὶ μηδέποτε δύνασθαι κρατῆσαι· τοὺς οὖν Ἀθηναίους ἀγανακτοῦντας τῷ πράγματι καὶ ἀπορομένους, τίμη χρὴ μηχανῇ τῶν παρόντων κακῶν ἀποτροπῆν εὐρεῖν, βουλευομένοις αὐτοῖς δοκεῖν κράτιστον εἶναι πέμψαντας πρὸς Ἀμμωνα ἐκείνον ἐπερωτᾶν· ἔτι δὲ πρὸς τούτοις τάδε, καὶ ἀνθ' ὅτου Λακεδαιμονίοις οἱ θεοὶ μᾶλλον νίκην διδῶσιν ἢ σφίσι αὐτοῖς, οἱ πλείστας, φάναι, μὲν θυσίας καὶ καλλίστας τῶν Ἑλλήνων ἄγομεν, ἀναθήμασί τε κεκοσμηκάμεν τὰ ἱερά αὐτῶν ὡς οὐδένες ἄλλοι, πομπάς τε πολυτελεστάτας καὶ σεμνοτάτας ἐδωρούμεθα τοῖς θεοῖς ἂν ἕκαστον ἔτος, καὶ ἐτελοῦμεν χρήματα ὅσα οὐδ' οἱ ἄλλοι σύμπαντες Ἕλληνες· Λακεδαιμονίοις δέ, φάναι, οὐδεπώποτ' ἐμέλησεν οὐδὲν τούτων, ἀλλ' οὕτως ὀλιγώρως διάκεινται πρὸς τοὺς θεοὺς, ὥστε καὶ ἀνάπηρα θύουσιν ἐκάστοτε καὶ τᾶλλα πάντα οὐκ ὀλίγω ἐνδεεστέρως τιμῶσιν ἢ περ ἡμεῖς, χρήματα οὐδὲν ἐλάττω κεκτημένοι τῆς ἡμετέρας πόλεως. ἐπεὶ δὲ εἰρηκέναι ταῦτα καὶ

<sup>1</sup> This seems to be the meaning of the Greek, which is certainly not Platonic. In Aristotle, *Phys.* iv. 13. 5 ὁ παρήκων χρόνος means "past time."



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present time<sup>1</sup> they have been just as fortunate as any other people ; and if it has befallen them to be not invariably fortunate, it was anyhow not owing to their prayer. It rests with the gods, I conceive, to give us either what we may pray for or the reverse.

And I would like to give you an account of something else, which I once heard from some of my seniors. A quarrel having arisen between the Athenians and the Spartans, it befell our city to be always unsuccessful in every battle by land and sea, and she could never win a victory. So the Athenians, in their annoyance at this result, and at a loss for some means of finding a deliverance from the trouble they were in, took counsel together and decided that the best thing they could do was to send and inquire of Ammon<sup>2</sup> ; and moreover, to ask also for what reason the gods granted victory to the Spartans rather than to themselves : “ for we ”—such was the message—“ offer up to them more and finer sacrifices than any of the Greeks, and have adorned their temples with votive emblems as no other people have done, and presented to the gods the costliest and stateliest processions year by year, and spent more money thus than all the rest of the Greeks together. But the Spartans have never taken any such pains, and indeed are so neglectful in their behaviour to the gods, that they make a practice of sacrificing defective victims, and generally are very much behind us in the honours that they pay, though the wealth they possess is quite equal to that of our city.” When

<sup>2</sup> An Ethiopian god whose cult spread over Egypt, and through Cyrene to various parts of Greece : he had temples at Thebes and Sparta, but the famous one in the Libyan desert is probably meant here.

## PLATO

ἐπερωτήσαι, τί χρὴ πράττοντας αὐτοὺς τῶν παρόντων κακῶν ἀπαλλαγὴν εὐρεῖν, ἄλλο μὲν  
 B οὐθὲν ἀποκριθῆναι τὸν προφήτην—τὸν γὰρ θεὸν οὐκ ἔαν δῆλον ὅτι—καλέσαντα δὲ αὐτόν, Ἀθηναίοις, φάναι, τάδε λέγει "Αμμων· φησὶν ἂν βούλεσθαι αὐτῷ τὴν Λακεδαιμονίων εὐφημίαν εἶναι μᾶλλον ἢ τὰ σύμπαντα τῶν Ἑλλήνων ἱερά. τοσαῦτα εἰπεῖν, οὐκέτι περαιτέρω. τὴν γ' οὖν εὐφημίαν οὐκ ἄλλην τινά μοι δοκεῖ λέγειν ὁ θεὸς ἢ τὴν εὐχὴν αὐτῶν· ἔστι γὰρ τῷ ὄντι πολὺ διαφέρουσα τῶν  
 C ἄλλων. οἱ μὲν γὰρ ἄλλοι Ἕλληνες οἱ μὲν χρυσόκερως βούς παραστησάμενοι, ἕτεροι δ' ἀναθήμασι δωρούμενοι τοὺς θεούς, εὐχονται ἅττ' ἂν τύχη ταῦτα, ἂν τε ἀγαθὰ ἂν τε κακά· βλασφημούντων οὖν αὐτῶν ἀκούοντες οἱ θεοὶ οὐκ ἀποδέχονται τὰς πολυτελεῖς ταυτασι πομπάς τε καὶ θυσίας. ἀλλὰ δοκεῖ μοι πολλῆς φυλακῆς δεῖσθαι καὶ σκέψεως, ὃ τί ποτε ῥητέον ἐστὶ καὶ μή.

Εὐρήσεις δὲ καὶ παρ' Ὀμήρῳ ἕτερα παραπλήσια τούτοις εἰρημένα. φησὶ γὰρ τοὺς Τρῶας  
 D ἔπαυλιν ποιουμένους

ἔρδειν ἀθανάτοισι τεληέσσας ἑκατόμβας·

τὴν δὲ κνῖσαν ἐκ τοῦ πεδίου τοὺς ἀνέμους φέρειν οὐρανὸν εἴσω

ἠδεῖαν· τῆς δ' οὐ τι θεοὺς μάκαρας दाτέεσθαι, οὐδ' ἐθέλειν· μάλα γὰρ σφιν ἀπήχθετο Ἴλιος ἱρὴ  
 E καὶ Πριάμος καὶ λαὸς εὐμμελίῳ Πριάμοιο·

ὥστε οὐδὲν αὐτοῖς ἦν προὔργου θύειν τε καὶ δῶρα

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<sup>1</sup> The use of ἀποκριθῆναι for "answered" instead of the  
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they had so spoken, and added the question, what they should do in order to find a deliverance from the trouble they were in, the prophet's only answer<sup>1</sup>—evidently it was all that the god allowed—was to call them to him and say : “ Thus saith Ammon to the Athenians : I would rather have the reverent reserve<sup>2</sup> of the Spartans than all the ritual of the Greeks.” So much he said, and not a word further. Now by “ reverent reserve ” I suppose the god could only mean their prayer, since in fact it differs greatly from those that are generally offered. For the Greeks in general either lead up bulls with gilded horns, or else present the gods with votive emblems, and pray for any odd thing, whether it be good or bad : so when the gods hear their irreverent speech they reject all these costly processions and sacrifices. Whereas I think we ought to be very cautious, and fully consider what is to be said and what is not.

And in Homer too you will find other tales of a similar sort. For he relates how the Trojans, in making their bivouac,

Sacrificed to the immortals perfect hecatombs,

and how the winds bore the sweet savour from the plain into heaven :

But the blessed gods partook not of it, nor would have it,  
For deep was their hate against holy Ilium,

And Priam, and the folk of Priam of the good ashen spear.<sup>3</sup>

So it was nothing to their purpose to sacrifice and

usual ἀποκρίνασθαι is evidence for placing the writer a good deal later than Plato.

<sup>2</sup> εὐφημία means “ avoidance of speech that may offend ”—the opposite being βλασφημία.

<sup>3</sup> The four lines directly quoted are not in our manuscripts of Homer, but have been inserted in modern texts as Π. viii. 548, 550-2.

τελείν μάτην, θεοῖς ἀπηχθημένους. οὐ γάρ, οἶμαι, τοιοῦτόν ἐστι τὸ τῶν θεῶν, ὥστε ὑπὸ δῶρων παράγεσθαι οἶον κακὸν τοκιστήν· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡμεῖς εὐήθη λόγον λέγομεν, ἀξιούντες Λακεδαιμονίων ταύτη περιεῖναι. καὶ γὰρ ἂν δεινὸν εἶη, εἰ πρὸς τὰ δῶρα καὶ τὰς θυσίας ἀποβλέπουσιν ἡμῶν οἱ θεοί, ἀλλὰ μὴ πρὸς τὴν ψυχὴν, ἂν τις ὅσιος καὶ  
 150 δίκαιος ᾖν τυγχάνη. πολλῶ γε μᾶλλον, οἶμαι, ἢ πρὸς τὰς πολυτελεῖς ταύτας πομπάς τε καὶ θυσίας, ἃς οὐδὲν κωλύει πολλὰ μὲν εἰς θεοὺς, πολλὰ δ' εἰς ἀνθρώπους ἡμαρτηκότας καὶ ἰδιώτην καὶ πόλιν ἔχειν ἂν' ἕκαστον ἔτος τελεῖν· οἱ δέ, ἅτε οὐ δωροδόκοι ὄντες, καταφρονοῦσιν ἀπάντων τούτων, ὡς φησιν ὁ θεὸς καὶ θεῶν προφήτης. κινδυνεύει γοῦν καὶ παρὰ θεοῖς καὶ παρ' ἀνθρώποις τοῖς νοῦν ἔχουσι δικαιοσύνη τε καὶ φρόνησις διαφερόντως τε-  
 Β τιμῆσθαι. φρόνιμοι δὲ καὶ δίκαιοι οὐκ ἄλλοι τινές εἰσιν [ἦ]<sup>1</sup> τῶν εἰδότων ἃ δεῖ πράττειν καὶ λέγειν πρὸς θεοὺς καὶ πρὸς ἀνθρώπους. βουλοίμην δ' ἂν καὶ πυθέσθαι ὅ τί ποτε ἐν νῶ ἔχεις πρὸς ταῦτα.

ΑΛΚ. Ἄλλ' ἐμοί, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐκ ἄλλη πη δοκεῖ ἢ ἡπερ σοί τε καὶ τῷ θεῷ· οὐδὲ γὰρ ἂν εἰκὸς εἶη ἀντίψηφον ἐμὲ τῷ θεῷ γενέσθαι.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν μέμνησαι ἐν πολλῇ ἀπορία φάσκων εἶναι, ὅπως μὴ λάθῃς σεαυτὸν εὐχόμενος κακά,  
 C δοκῶν δὲ ἀγαθά;

ΑΛΚ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ὅρας οὖν, ὡς οὐκ ἀσφαλές σοί ἐστιν ἐλθεῖν πρὸς τὸν θεὸν εὐξομένῳ, ἵνα μηδ' ἂν οὕτω τύχη, βλασφημοῦντός σου ἀκούων οὐθὲν ἀποδέξεται τῆς θυσίας ταύτης, τυχὸν δὲ καὶ ἕτερόν τι προσαπο-

<sup>1</sup> ἦ del. Winckelmann.

## ALCIBIADES II

pay tribute of gifts in vain, when they were hated by the gods. For it is not, I imagine, the way of the gods to be seduced with gifts, like a base usurer. And indeed it is but silly talk of ours, if we claim to surpass the Spartans on this score. For it would be a strange thing if the gods had regard to our gifts and sacrifices instead of our souls, and the piety and justice that may be found in any of us. Far rather at these, I believe, do they look than at those costly processions and sacrifices which are offered, it well may be, by individual and state, year in, year out, though they may have offended greatly against the gods, or as greatly against their neighbours. But the gods are not to be won by bribes, and so they despise all these things, as Ammon and the holy prophet say. Certainly it would seem that justice and wisdom are held in especial honour both by the gods and by men of intelligence; and wise and just are they alone who know what acts and words to use towards gods and men. But I should like now to hear what may be your opinion on the subject.

ALC. Why, Socrates, it in no wise differs from yours and the god's; for indeed it would not be fitting for me to record my vote against the god.

SOC. And you remember you professed to be in great perplexity lest you should pray unawares for evil, while supposing it to be good?

ALC. I do.

SOC. You see, then, how unsafe it is for you to approach the god with your prayers, for it may chance that when he hears your irreverent speech he will reject your sacrifice altogether, and you may perhaps be accorded some other bad thing as well.

λαύσης. ἐμοὶ μὲν οὖν δοκεῖ βέλτιστον εἶναι ἡσυχίαν ἔχειν. τῇ μὲν γὰρ Λακεδαιμονίων εὐχῇ διὰ τὴν μεγαλοψυχίαν—τοῦτο γὰρ κάλλιστον τῶν ἐν ἀφροσύνῃ γε ὀνομάτων—οὐκ ἂν οἶμαί σε ἐθέλειν  
 D χρῆσθαι. ἀναγκαῖον οὖν ἐστὶ περιμένειν, ἕως ἂν τις μάθῃ, ὡς δεῖ πρὸς θεοὺς καὶ πρὸς ἀνθρώπους διακεῖσθαι.

ΑΛΚ. Πότε οὖν παρέσται ὁ χρόνος οὗτος, ᾧ Σώκρατες, καὶ τίς ὁ παιδεύσων; ἥδιστα γὰρ ἂν μοι δοκῶ ἰδεῖν τοῦτον τὸν ἀνθρώπον τίς ἐστίν.

ΣΩ. Οὗτος ᾧ μέλει περὶ σοῦ. ἀλλὰ δοκεῖ μοι, ὡσπερ τῷ Διομήδει φησὶ τὴν Ἀθηναίαν Ὀμηρος ἀπὸ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν ἀφελεῖν τὴν ἀχλύν,

ὄφρ' εὖ γιγνώσκοι ἡμὲν θεὸν ἠδὲ καὶ ἄνδρα,

E οὕτω καὶ σοὶ δεῖν ἀπὸ τῆς ψυχῆς πρῶτον τὴν ἀχλὺν ἀφελόντα, ἢ νῦν παροῦσα τυγχάνει, τὸ τηνικαυτ' ἥδη προσφέρειν δι' ὧν μέλλεις γνῶσεσθαι ἡμὲν κακὸν ἠδὲ καὶ ἐσθλόν. νῦν μὲν γὰρ οὐκ ἂν μοι δοκεῖς δυνηθῆναι.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀφαιρείτω, εἴτε βούλεται τὴν ἀχλὺν εἴτε ἄλλο τι· ὡς ἐγὼ παρεσκεύασμαι μὴθὲν ἂν φυγεῖν τῶν ὑπ' ἐκείνου προσταττομένων, ὅστις ποτ' ἐστὶν ἀνθρώπος,<sup>1</sup> εἴ γε μέλλοιμι βελτίων γενέσθαι.

151 ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὴν κάκεῖνος θαυμαστὴν ὄσσην περὶ σέ προθυμίαν ἔχει.

ΑΛΚ. Εἰς τότε τοίνυν καὶ τὴν θυσίαν ἀναβάλλεσθαι κράτιστον εἶναί μοι δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Καὶ ὀρθῶς γέ σοι δοκεῖ· ἀσφαλέστερον γάρ ἐστιν ἢ παρακινδυνεύειν τοσοῦτον κίνδυνον.

ΑΛΚ. Ἀλλὰ πῶς, ᾧ Σώκρατες; καὶ μὴν τουτονὶ

<sup>1</sup> ἀνθρώπος Schanz: ἀνθρώπος, ὁ ἀνθρώπος MSS.

## ALCIBIADES II

In my opinion, therefore, it is best to hold your peace : for I expect you will not consent to use the Spartan's prayer, you have such a *romantic* spirit—to give it the fairest of folly's names.<sup>1</sup> It is necessary, therefore, to bide one's time until one can learn how one should behave towards gods and men.

ALC. Well, when will that time arrive, Socrates, and who is to be my instructor ? For I feel I should very much like to see who the man is.

SOC. It is he who is concerned about you. But I think, as Homer relates how Athena removed the mist from the eyes of Diomedes,

That he might well discern both god and man,<sup>2</sup>

so you too must first have the mist removed which now enwraps your soul, and then you will be ready to receive the means whereby you will discern both evil and good. For at present I do not think you could do so.

ALC. Let him remove the mist or whatever else he likes to call it : for I am prepared to obey every one of his commands, without shirking, whoever the man may be, so long as I am to be the better for them.

SOC. I tell you, he on his part is prodigiously anxious to help you.

ALC. Then I think it best to defer the sacrifice also till the time comes.

SOC. And you are quite right : for that is safer than running so serious a risk.

ALC. But how say you, Socrates ? Look now, I

<sup>1</sup> Cf. 140 c.

<sup>2</sup> *Il.* v. 127.

## PLATO

τὸν στέφανον, ἐπειδὴ μοι δοκεῖς καλῶς συμβουλευκέναι, σοὶ περιθήσω· τοῖς θεοῖς δὲ καὶ Β στεφάνους καὶ τᾶλλα πάντα τὰ νομιζόμενα τότε δώσομεν, ὅταν ἐκείνην τὴν ἡμέραν ἐλθοῦσαν ἴδω. ἤξει δ' οὐ διὰ μακροῦ τούτων θελόντων.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ δέχομαι καὶ τοῦτο, καὶ ἄλλο δὲ ἂν τι τῶν παρὰ σοῦ δοθέντων ἠδέως ἴδοιμι δεξάμενον ἐμαυτόν. ὥσπερ δὲ καὶ ὁ Κρέων Εὐριπίδῃ πεποίηται τὸν Τειρεσίαν ἰδὼν ἔχοντα τὰ στέφη καὶ ἀκούσας ἀπὸ τῶν πολεμίων ἀπαρχὰς αὐτὸν εἰληφέναι διὰ τὴν τέχνην,

οἰωνὸν ἐθέμην, φησί, καλλίνικα <σὰ><sup>1</sup> στέφη·  
ἐν γὰρ κλύδωνι κείμεθ', ὥσπερ οἶσθα σύ·

Οὕτω δὲ καὶ γὰρ παρὰ σοῦ τὴν δόξαν ταύτην οἰωνὸν τίθεμαι. δοκῶ δὲ μοι οὐκ ἐν ἐλάττονι κλύδωνι τοῦ Κρέοντος εἶναι, καὶ βουλοίμην ἂν καλλίνικος γενέσθαι τῶν σῶν ἐραστῶν.

<sup>1</sup> σὰ Eur. *Phoen.* 858: om. mss.



## ALCIBIADES II

will crown you with this garland, as I consider you have given me such good advice ; and to the gods we shall offer both garlands and all the other customary things when I see that day has come. And come it will ere long, if they are willing.

soc. Well, I accept this gift ; and anything else besides, that you may give me, I shall be only too happy to accept.<sup>1</sup> And as Euripides has made Creon say when he sees Teiresias wearing his wreaths, and hears that he has obtained them, on account of his art, as first-fruits of the spoils of war :

As omen good I take thy victor's wreaths ;  
For in the waves we labour, as thou knowest,—<sup>2</sup>

so do I take this opinion of yours as a good omen. For I consider I am no less wave-tossed than Creon, and would like to come off victorious over your lovers.

<sup>1</sup> The Greek here is literally—"I should gladly see myself to have accepted"—which seems very unplatonic.

<sup>2</sup> Eurip. *Phoen.* 858-9. The blind prophet Teiresias has been crowned by the Athenians for the aid he has given them in a successful war. Eteocles, the young king of Thebes, has left the city in charge of his uncle Creon while he is fighting his brother Polynices for the possession of the throne.



HIPPARCHUS

## INTRODUCTION TO THE *HIPPARCHUS*

THE *Hipparchus* is probably not a genuine work of Plato, who would surely have conducted the discussion with more grace and spirit and consecution. Nevertheless it is not without interest to the student of the Platonic dialogues. The subject—the meaning of the common phrase, “a lover of gain,” and its general handling, are truly Socratic, and the language shows that the writer had a fairly close and accurate grasp of Platonic idiom. A series of definitions are suggested by Socrates’ anonymous companion, and these are in turn exposed as conflicting with each other or the truth. After proving that gain is not made from worthless things, and that it is not the same as good, Socrates gives an account of the wise and beneficent rule of Hipparchus in Athens (527–514 B.C.), and of the cause of the conspiracy which brought about his death. This digression, although it gives its name to the whole dialogue, is connected with the conversation by but one flimsy thread—one of the maxims which Hipparchus inscribed by the roadside for the edification of the people: this maxim—“Deceive not a friend”—has a bearing, not on any subject of the debate, but only on a momentary difference between Socrates and his friend. Socrates then allows the friend to retract some of his previous statements,

## INTRODUCTION TO THE *HIPPARCIUS*

and gets the reply that some gain is good, some evil. But we want to know what *gain* itself is, whether it be good or evil ; it is not the same as an acquisition, for it is only when an acquisition is good that we call it gain. It seems, after all, that gain must be something good. The same result is reached, if we consider the relation of gain to value or worth ; for the valuable is profitable, and the profitable is good. The conversation ends with a short recapitulation, showing how obscure the meaning of gain really is, and how unsafe it is to reproach anyone with being “ a lover of gain.”

# ΙΠΠΑΡΧΟΣ Η ΦΙΛΟΚΕΡΔΗΣ

[ΗΘΙΚΟΣ]

ΤΑ ΤΟΥΤ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ, ΕΤΑΙΡΟΣ

St. II  
P. 225

ΣΩ. Τί γὰρ τὸ φιλοκερδές; τί ποτέ ἐστι, καὶ τίνας οἱ φιλοκερδεῖς;

ΕΤ. Ἐμοὶ μὲν δοκοῦσιν, οἱ ἂν κερδαίνειν ἀξιῶσιν ἀπὸ τῶν μηδενὸς ἀξίων.

ΣΩ. Πότερον οὖν σοι δοκοῦσι γιννώσκοντες, ὅτι οὐδενὸς ἐστὶν ἄξια, ἢ ἀγνοοῦντες; εἰ γὰρ ἀγνοοῦντες, ἀνοήτους λέγεις τοὺς φιλοκερδεῖς.

ΕΤ. Ἄλλ' οὐκ ἀνοήτους λέγω, ἀλλὰ πανούργους καὶ πονηροὺς καὶ ἥττους τοῦ κέρδους, γιννώσκοντας ὅτι οὐδενὸς ἄξιά ἐστὶν ἀφ' ὧν τολμῶσι κερδαίνειν, ὅμως τολμᾶν φιλοκερδεῖν δι' ἀναισχυντίαν.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν τοιόνδε λέγεις τὸν φιλοκερδῆ, οἷον ἔαν φυτεύων γεωργικὸς ἀνὴρ καὶ γιννώσκων ὅτι οὐδενὸς ἄξιον τὸ φυτόν, ἀξιοῖ ἀπὸ τούτου ἐκτραφέντος κερδαίνειν; ἄρα τοιοῦτον αὐτὸν λέγεις;

ΕΤ. Ἀπὸ παντὸς ὃ γε φιλοκερδῆς, ὦ Σώκρατες, οἶεται δεῖν κερδαίνειν.

# HIPPARCHUS OR LOVER OF GAIN

[ETHICAL]

## CHARACTERS

SOCRATES, FRIEND

soc. And what is love of gain? What can it be, and who are the lovers of gain?

FR. In my opinion, they are those who think it worth while to make gain out of things of no worth.

soc. Is it your opinion that they know those things to be of no worth, or do not know? For if they do not know, you mean that the lovers of gain are fools.

FR. No, I do not mean they are fools, but rascals who wickedly yield to gain, because they know that the things out of which they dare to make their gain are worthless, and yet they dare to be lovers of gain from mere shamelessness.

soc. Well now, do you mean by the lover of gain such a man, for instance, as a farmer who plants something which he knows is a worthless herb, and thinks fit to make gain out of it when he has reared it up? Is that the sort of man you mean?

FR. The lover of gain, as such, Socrates, thinks he ought to make gain from everything.

## PLATO

C
ΣΩ.
 Μή μοι οὕτως εἰκῆ, ὥσπερ τι ἠδίκημένος  
 ὑπό τινος, ἀλλὰ προσέχων ἐμοὶ τὸν νοῦν ἀπόκρῖναι,  
 ὥσπερ ἂν εἰ ἐξ ἀρχῆς πάλιν ἠρώτων· οὐχὶ ὁμο-  
 λογεῖς τὸν φιλοκερδῆ ἐπιστήμονα εἶναι περὶ τῆς  
 ἀξίας τούτου, ὅθεν κερδαίνειν ἀξιοῖ;

ΕΤ.
Ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ.
Τίς
 οὖν ἐπιστήμων περὶ φυτῶν τῆς ἀξίας,  
 ἐν ᾗ ὅποια ἀξία φυτευθῆναι καὶ ὥρα καὶ χώρα;  
 ἵνα τι καὶ ἡμεῖς τῶν σοφῶν ῥημάτων ἐμβάλωμεν,  
 ᾧ οἱ δεξιοὶ περὶ τὰς δίκας καλλιεποῦνται.

D
ΕΤ.
Ἐγὼ
 μὲν οἶμαι γεωργόν.

ΣΩ.
Τὸ
 οὖν ἀξιοῦν<sup>1</sup> κερδαίνειν ἄλλο τι λέγεις ἢ  
 οἶεσθαι δεῖν κερδαίνειν;

ΕΤ.
Τοῦτο
 λέγω.

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ΣΩ.
Μή
 τοίνυν με ἐπιχείρει ἐξαπατᾶν, ἄνδρα  
 πρεσβύτερον ἤδη οὕτω νέος ὢν, ἀποκρινόμενος  
 ὥσπερ νῦν δῆ, ἃ οὐδ' αὐτὸς οἶει, ἀλλ' ὡς ἀληθῶς  
 εἰπέ· ἄρ'<sup>2</sup> ἔστιν ὄντινα οἶει γεωργικὸν ἄνδρα  
 γιγνόμενον, καὶ γινώσκοντα, ὅτι οὐδενὸς ἀξίον  
 φυτεύει τὸ φυτόν, οἶεσθαι ἀπὸ τούτου κερδαίνειν;

ΕΤ.
Μὰ
 Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ.
Τί
 δέ; ἵππικὸν ἄνδρα γινώσκοντα, ὅτι  
 οὐδενὸς ἀξία σιτία τῷ ἵππῳ παρέχει, ἀγνοεῖν αὐτὸν  
 οἶει, ὅτι τὸν ἵππον διαφθείρει;

ΕΤ.
Οὐκ
 ἔγωγε.

B
ΣΩ.
Οὐκ
 ἄρα οἶεται γε ἀπὸ τούτων κερδαίνειν  
 τῶν σιτίων τῶν μηδενὸς ἀξίων.

<sup>1</sup> τὸ ἀξιοῦν Etwall: τὸν ἀξίον MSS.

<sup>2</sup> εἰπέ· ἄρ' Boeckh: εἶπερ MSS.

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<sup>1</sup> The "artful phrase" here is the jingling ὥρα καὶ χώρα,  
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## HIPPARCHUS

soc. Please do not speak so recklessly, as though you had been wronged by someone, but give me your attention and answer just as you would if I were beginning my questions over again. Do you not admit that the lover of gain has knowledge of the worth of the thing from which he thinks it worth while to make gain ?

FR. I do.

soc. Then who has knowledge of the worth of plants, and of the sort of season and soil in which they are worth planting—if we too may throw in one of those artful phrases<sup>1</sup> which adroit pleaders use to trick out their speeches in the law courts ?

FR. For my part, I should say a farmer.

soc. And by “ think it worth while to make gain ” do you mean aught but “ thinking one ought to make gain ” ?

FR. I mean that.

soc. Then do not attempt to deceive me, who am now quite an elderly person, and you so young, by making, as you did just now, an answer that is not even your own thought ; but tell me in all truth, do you suppose that any man who was taking up farming and who knew it was a worthless plant that he was planting, could think to make gain from it ?

FR. Upon my word, I do not.

soc. Or again, take a horseman who knows that he is providing worthless food for his horse ; do you suppose he is unaware that he is destroying his horse ?

FR. I do not.

soc. So he does not think to make gain from that worthless food.

characteristic of the rhetoric taught by Gorgias and his followers.

ΕΤ. Οὐχί.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; κυβερνήτην μηδενὸς ἄξια ἰστία καὶ πηδάλια τῇ νηϊ παρεσκευασμένον ἀγνοεῖν οἶει, ὅτι ζημιωθήσεται καὶ κινδυνεύσει καὶ αὐτὸς ἀπολέσθαι καὶ τὴν ναῦν ἀπολέσαι καὶ ἅ ἂν ἄγῃ πάντα;

ΕΤ. Οὐκ ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα οἶεται γε κερδαίνειν ἀπὸ τῶν  
C σκεύων τῶν μηδενὸς ἀξίων.

ΕΤ. Οὐ γάρ.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ στρατηγὸς γινώσκων, ὅτι ἡ στρατιὰ αὐτῷ οὐδενὸς ἄξια ὅπλα ἔχει, οἶεται ἀπὸ τούτων κερδαίνειν καὶ ἀξιοῖ κερδαίνειν;

ΕΤ. Οὐδαμῶς.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' αὐλητῆς αὐλοῦς οὐδενὸς ἀξίους ἔχων ἢ κιθαριστῆς λύραν ἢ τοξότης τόξον ἢ ἄλλος ὅστισοῦν συλλήβδην τῶν δημιουργῶν ἢ τῶν ἄλλων τῶν ἐμφρόνων ἀνδρῶν μηδενὸς ἄξια ὄργανα ἢ ἄλλην παρασκευὴν ἠντιναοῦν ἔχων ἀπὸ τούτων οἶεται κερδαίνειν;

D ΕΤ. Οὐκ οὖν φαίνεται γε.

ΣΩ. Τίνας οὖν ποτὲ λέγεις τοὺς φιλοκερδεῖς; οὐ γάρ που τούτους γε, οὓς διεληλύθαμεν, <ἀλλ' ><sup>1</sup> οἵτινες γινώσκοντες τὰ οὐδενὸς ἄξια ἀπὸ τούτων οἴονται δεῖν κερδαίνειν; ἀλλ' οὕτω μὲν, ὧ θαυμάσιε, ὡς σὺ λέγεις, οὐκ ἔστ' ἀνθρώπων οὐδεὶς φιλοκερδής.

ΕΤ. Ἄλλ' ἐγώ, ὧ Σώκρατες, βούλομαι λέγειν τούτους φιλοκερδεῖς εἶναι, οἱ ἐκάστοτε ὑπὸ ἀπληστίας καὶ πάνυ σμικρὰ καὶ ὀλίγου ἄξια καὶ οὐδενὸς  
E γλίχονται ὑπερφυῶς καὶ φιλοκερδοῦσιν.

ΣΩ. Οὐ δήπου, ὧ βέλτιστε, γινώσκοντες, ὅτι

<sup>1</sup> ἀλλ' add. Apelt.

## HIPPARCHUS

FR. No.

soc. Or again, take a navigator who has furnished his ship with worthless spars and ropes ; do you think he is unaware that he will suffer for it, and will be in danger of being lost himself, and of losing the ship and all her cargo ?

FR. I do not.

soc. So he does not think to make gain from that worthless tackle ?

FR. No, indeed.

soc. But does a general, who knows that his army has worthless arms, think to make gain, or think it worth while to make gain, from them ?

FR. By no means.

soc. Or does a flute-player who has worthless flutes, or a harper with a lyre, a bowman with a bow, or anyone else at all, in short, among ordinary craftsmen or sensible men in general, with any implement or other equipment of any sort that is worthless, think to make gain from it ?

FR. To all appearance, no.

soc. Then whoever can they be, your lovers of gain ? For I presume they are not the people whom we have successively mentioned, but people who know their worthless things, and yet think they are to make gain from them. But in that case, by what you say, remarkable sir, no man alive is a lover of gain !

FR. Well, Socrates, I should like to call those lovers of gain who from insatiable greed consumedly long for things that are even quite petty and of little or no worth, and so love gain, in each case.

soc. Not knowing, of course, my excellent friend,

οὐδενὸς ἄξιά ἐστι· τοῦτο μὲν γὰρ ἤδη ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς τῷ λόγῳ ἐξηλέγξαμεν ὅτι ἀδύνατον.

ΕΤ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΝ. Οὐκοῦν εἰ μὴ γιννώσκοντες, δῆλον ὅτι ἀγνοοῦντες, οἴομενοι δὲ τὰ οὐδενὸς ἄξια πολλοῦ ἄξια εἶναι.

ΕΤ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΝ. Ἄλλο τι οὖν οἷ γε φιλοκερδεῖς φιλοῦσι τὸ κέρδος;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Κέρδος δὲ λέγεις ἐναντίον τῆς ζημίας;

227 ΕΤ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΝ. Ἔστιν οὖν ὅτω ἀγαθὸν ἐστι ζημιουῖσθαι;

ΕΤ. Οὐδενί.

ΣΝ. Ἄλλὰ κακόν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Βλάπτονται ὑπὸ τῆς ζημίας ἄρα ἄνθρωποι.

ΕΤ. Βλάπτονται.

ΣΝ. Κακὸν ἄρα ἡ ζημία.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Ἐναντίον δὲ τῆς ζημίας τὸ κέρδος.

ΕΤ. Ἐναντίον.

ΣΝ. Ἀγαθὸν ἄρα τὸ κέρδος.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Τοὺς οὖν τὸ ἀγαθὸν φιλοῦντας φιλοκερδεῖς καλεῖς.

ΕΤ. Ἐοικεν.

Β ΣΝ. Οὐ μανικούς γε, ὦ ἐταῖρε, λέγεις τοὺς φιλοκερδεῖς. ἀλλὰ σὺ αὐτὸς πότερον φιλεῖς ὃ ἂν ἀγαθὸν ᾗ, ἢ οὐ φιλεῖς;

ΕΤ. Ἐγωγε.

## HIPPARCHUS

that the things are worthless ; for we have already convinced ourselves by our argument that this is impossible.

FR. I agree.

SOC. And if not knowing this, clearly they are ignorant of it, but think that those worthless things are worth a great deal.

FR. Apparently.

SOC. Now, of course lovers of gain must love gain ?

FR. Yes.

SOC. And by gain you mean the opposite of loss ?

FR. I do.

SOC. And is it a good thing for anyone to suffer loss ?

FR. For no one.

SOC. Rather an evil ?

FR. Yes.

SOC. So mankind are harmed by loss.

FR. They are harmed.

SOC. Then loss is an evil.

FR. Yes.

SOC. And gain is the opposite of loss.

FR. The opposite.

SOC. So that gain is a good.

FR. Yes.

SOC. Hence it is those who love the good that you call lovers of gain.

FR. So it seems.

SOC. At least there is nothing mad, my friend, about lovers of gain, as you describe them. But tell me, do you yourself love, or not love, whatever is good ?

FR. I love it.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Ἔστι δέ τι ἀγαθόν, ὃ οὐ φιλεῖς, ἀλλὰ κακόν;

ΕΤ. Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ πάντα τὰ ἀγαθὰ ἴσως φιλεῖς.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐροῦ δὴ καὶ ἐμέ, εἰ οὐ καὶ ἐγώ· ὁμολογήσω γὰρ καὶ ἐγώ σοι φιλεῖν τὰ ἀγαθὰ. ἀλλὰ πρὸς ἐμοὶ καὶ σοὶ οἱ ἄλλοι ἄνθρωποι ἅπαντες οὐ δοκοῦσί σοι  
C τὰγαθὰ φιλεῖν, τὰ δὲ κακὰ μισεῖν;

ΕΤ. Ἐμοιγε φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Τὸ δὲ κέρδος ἀγαθὸν ὁμολογήσαμεν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Πάντες αὖ φιλοκερδεῖς φαίνονται τοῦτον τὸν τρόπον· ὃν δὲ τὸ πρότερον ἐλέγομεν, οὐδεὶς ἦν φιλοκερδῆς. ποτέρῳ οὖν ἂν τις τῷ λόγῳ χρώμενος οὐκ ἂν ἕξαμαρτάνοι;

ΕΤ. Εἴ τις, ὦ Σώκρατες, οἶμαι, ὀρθῶς λαμβάνοι τὸν φιλοκερδῆ. ὀρθῶς δ' ἐστὶ τοῦτον ἠγεῖσθαι φιλοκερδῆ, ὃς ἂν σπουδάζῃ ἐπὶ τούτοις  
D καὶ ἀξιοῖ κερδαίνειν ἀπ' αὐτῶν, ἀφ' ὧν οἱ χρηστοὶ οὐ τολμῶσι κερδαίνειν.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ὄρας, ὦ γλυκύτατε, τὸ κερδαίνειν ἄρτι ὁμολογήσαμεν εἶναι ὠφελεῖσθαι.

ΕΤ. Τί οὖν δὴ τοῦτο;

ΣΩ. Ὅτι καὶ τόδε αὐτῷ προσωμολογήσαμεν, βούλεσθαι τὰ ἀγαθὰ πάντας καὶ ἀεὶ.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ οἱ ἀγαθοὶ πάντα τὰ κέρδη βούλονται ἔχειν, εἴπερ ἀγαθὰ γέ ἐστιν.

ΕΤ. Οὐκ ἀφ' ὧν γε μέλλουσιν, ὦ Σώκρατες, βλαβήσεσθαι τῶν κερδῶν.

## HIPPARCHUS

soc. And is there anything good that you do not love, or must it then be evil ?

FR. Upon my word, nothing.

soc. In fact, I expect you love all good things.

FR. Yes.

soc. Well now, ask me on my side whether I do not likewise : for I shall agree with you, for my part, that I love good things. But besides you and me, do you not think that all the rest of mankind love good things, and hate evil things ?

FR. It appears so to me.

soc. And we admitted that gain is good ?

FR. Yes.

soc. On this new showing, everyone appears to be a lover of gain ; whereas, by our former way of arguing, no one was a lover of gain. So on which of the two arguments are we to rely, in order to avoid error ?

FR. What has to be done, I think, Socrates, is to conceive the lover of gain rightly. The right view of the lover of gain is that he is one who concerns himself with, and thinks fit to make gain from, things from which honest men do not dare to make gain.

soc. But you see, my sweet sir, we have just admitted that making gain is being benefited.

FR. Well, what of that ?

soc. There is the further point we have admitted in addition to this—that all men wish for good things always.

FR. Yes.

soc. Then good men likewise wish to have all gains, if these are good things.

FR. Not those gains from which they are bound, Socrates, to suffer harm.

ΣΩ. Βλαβήσεσθαι δὲ λέγεις ζημιώσεσθαι ἢ ἄλλο τι;

ΕΤ. Οὐκ, ἀλλὰ ζημιώσεσθαι λέγω.

ΣΩ. Ὑπὸ τοῦ κέρδους οὖν ζημιοῦνται ἢ ὑπὸ τῆς ζημίας ἄνθρωποι;

ΕΤ. Ὑπὸ ἀμφοτέρων· καὶ γὰρ ὑπὸ τῆς ζημίας ζημιοῦνται καὶ ὑπὸ τοῦ κέρδους τοῦ πονηροῦ.

ΣΩ. Ἡ δοκεῖ οὖν τί σοι χρηστὸν καὶ ἀγαθὸν πρᾶγμα πονηρὸν εἶναι;

ΕΤ. Οὐκ ἔμοιγε.

228 ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὠμολογήσαμεν ὀλίγον πρότερον τὸ κέρδος τῇ ζημίᾳ κακῶ ὄντι ἐναντίον εἶναι;

ΕΤ. Φημί.

ΣΩ. Ἐναντίον δὲ ὄν κακῶ ἀγαθὸν εἶναι;

ΕΤ. Ὁμολογήσαμεν γάρ.

ΣΩ. Ὅρας οὖν, ἐπιχειρεῖς με ἐξαπατᾶν, ἐπίτηδες ἐναντία λέγων οἷς ἄρτι ὠμολογήσαμεν.

ΕΤ. Οὐ μὰ Δία, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἀλλὰ τοῦναντίον σύ με ἐξαπατᾶς καὶ οὐκ οἶδα ὅπῃ ἐν τοῖς λόγοις ἄνω καὶ κάτω στρέφεις.

B ΣΩ. Εὐφήμει· οὐ μέντ' ἂν καλῶς ποιοίην, οὐ πειθόμενος ἀνδρὶ ἀγαθῶ καὶ σοφῶ.

ΕΤ. Τίνι τούτῳ; καὶ τί μάλιστα;

ΣΩ. Πολίτη μὲν ἐμῶ τε καὶ σῶ, Πεισιστράτου δὲ υἱεῖ τοῦ ἐκ Φιλαιδῶν, Ἰππάρχῳ, ὃς τῶν Πεισιστράτου παίδων ἦν πρεσβύτατος καὶ σοφώτατος, ὃς ἄλλα τε πολλὰ καὶ καλὰ ἔργα σοφίας ἀπεδείξατο, καὶ τὰ Ὅμηρου ἔπη πρῶτος ἐκόμισεν εἰς τὴν γῆν ταυτηνί, καὶ ἠνάγκασε τοὺς ραψωδοὺς Παναθηναίοις ἐξ ὑπολήψεως ἐφεξῆς αὐτὰ διέναι, ὥσπερ C νῦν ἔτι οἶδε ποιοῦσι· καὶ ἐπ' Ἀνακρέοντα τὸν



## HIPPARCHUS

soc. By "suffer harm" do you mean "suffer loss," or something else?

FR. No, I mean just "suffer loss."

soc. Well, do men suffer loss from gain or from loss?

FR. From both; for they suffer loss from loss and from wicked gain.

soc. Pray now, do you consider that any useful and good thing is wicked?

FR. I do not.

soc. And we admitted a little while ago that gain is the opposite of loss, which is an evil.

FR. I agree.

soc. And that, being the opposite of an evil, it is good?

FR. That was our admission.

soc. So you see, you are attempting to deceive me, for you deliberately contradict what we agreed to just now.

FR. No, on my honour, Socrates; on the contrary, it is you who are deceiving me, by twisting this way and that so perplexingly in your talk!

soc. Hush, hush! Why, surely it would be wrong of me not to obey a good and wise person.

FR. Who is that? And to what are you referring now?

soc. I mean my and your fellow-citizen, Pisistratus's son Hipparchus, of Philaïdae, who was the eldest and wisest of Pisistratus's sons, and who, among the many goodly proofs of wisdom that he showed, first brought the poems of Homer into this country of ours, and compelled the rhapsodes at the Panathenaea to recite them in relay, one man following on another, as they still do now. He dispatched a fifty-oared

Τήϊον πεντηκόντορον στείλας ἐκόμισεν εἰς τὴν πόλιν· Συμωνίδην δὲ τὸν Κεῖιον αἰεὶ περὶ αὐτὸν εἶχε, μεγάλοις μισθοῖς καὶ δώροις πείθων· ταῦτα δ' ἐποίει βουλόμενος παιδεύειν τοὺς πολίτας, ἵνα ὡς βελτίστων ὄντων αὐτῶν ἄρχοι, οὐκ οἰόμενος δεῖν οὐδενὶ σοφίας φθονεῖν, ἅτε ὢν καλὸς τε καὶ ἀγαθός. ἐπειδὴ δὲ αὐτῷ οἱ περὶ τὸ ἄστυ τῶν πολιτῶν πεπαιδευμένοι ἦσαν καὶ ἐθαύμαζον αὐτὸν ἐπὶ σοφία, ἐπιβουλεύων αὐ τοὺς ἐν τοῖς ἀγροῖς παιδεύσαι ἔστησεν αὐτοῖς Ἑρμᾶς κατὰ τὰς ὁδοὺς ἐν μέσῳ τοῦ ἄστεος καὶ τῶν δήμων ἐκάστων, κᾶπειτα τῆς σοφίας τῆς αὐτοῦ, ἣν τ' ἔμαθε καὶ ἦν αὐτὸς ἐξηῦρεν, ἐκλεξάμενος ἃ ἠγεῖτο σοφώτατα εἶναι, ταῦτα αὐτὸς ἐντείνας εἰς ἐλεγείον αὐτοῦ ποιήματα καὶ ἐπιδείγματα τῆς σοφίας ἐπέγραψεν, ἵνα πρῶτον ἐ μὲν τὰ ἐν Δελφοῖς γράμματα τὰ σοφὰ ταῦτα μὴ θαυμάζοιεν οἱ πολῖται αὐτοῦ, τό τε Γνωθῆι σαυτὸν καὶ τὸ Μηδὲν ἄγαν καὶ τᾶλλα τὰ τοιαῦτα, ἀλλὰ τὰ Ἱππάρχου ῥήματα μᾶλλον σοφὰ ἠγοῖντο, ἔπειτα παριόντες ἄνω καὶ κάτω καὶ ἀναγιγνώσκοντες καὶ γεῦμα λαμβάνοντες αὐτοῦ τῆς σοφίας φοιτῶεν ἐκ τῶν ἀγρῶν καὶ ἐπὶ τὰ λοιπὰ παιδευθησόμενοι. ἐστὸν δὲ δύω τῶπιγράμματα· ἐν μὲν τοῖς ἐπ' 229 ἀριστερὰ τοῦ Ἑρμοῦ ἐκάστου ἐπιγέγραπται λέγων ὁ Ἑρμῆς, ὅτι ἐν μέσῳ τοῦ ἄστεος καὶ τοῦ δήμου ἔστηκεν, ἐν δὲ τοῖς ἐπὶ δεξιά

μνημα τόδ' Ἱππάρχου· στείχε δίκαια φρονῶν φησίν. ἔστι δὲ τῶν ποιημάτων καὶ ἄλλα ἐν ἄλλοις Ἑρμαῖς πολλὰ καὶ καλὰ ἐπιγεγραμμένα· ἔστι δὲ δὴ καὶ τοῦτο ἐπὶ τῇ Στειριακῇ ὁδῷ, ἐν ᾧ λέγει

<sup>1</sup> A town on the south-east coast of Attica.

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galley for Anacreon of Teos, and brought him into our city. Simonides of Ceos he always had about him, prevailing on him by plenteous fees and gifts. All this he did from a wish to educate the citizens, in order that he might have subjects of the highest excellence ; for he thought it not right to grudge wisdom to any, so noble and good was he. And when his people in the city had been educated and were admiring him for his wisdom, he proceeded next, with the design of educating those of the countryside, to set up figures of Hermes for them along the roads in the midst of the city and every district town ; and then, after selecting from his own wise lore, both learnt from others and discovered for himself, the things that he considered the wisest, he threw these into elegiac form and inscribed them on the figures as verses of his own and testimonies of his wisdom, so that in the first place his people should not admire those wise Delphic legends of *Know thyself* and *Nothing overmuch*, and the other sayings of the sort, but should rather regard as wise the utterances of Hipparchus ; and that in the second place, through passing up and down and reading his words and acquiring a taste for his wisdom, they might resort hither from the country for the completion of their education. There are two such inscriptions of his : on the left side of each Hermes there is one in which the god says that he stands in the midst of the city or the township, while on the right side he says :

The memorial of Hipparchus : walk with just intent.

There are many other fine inscriptions from his poems on other figures of Hermes, and this one in particular, on the Steiria <sup>1</sup> road, in which he says :

**B** μνήμα τὸδ' Ἰππάρχου· μὴ φίλον ἕξαπάτα.

ἐγὼ οὖν σὲ ἐμοὶ ὄντα φίλον οὐ δήπου τολμῶν ἄν ἕξαπατᾶν καὶ ἐκείνῳ τοιούτῳ ὄντι ἀπιστεῖν, οὐ καὶ ἀποθανόντος τρία ἔτη ἐτυραννεύθησαν Ἀθηναῖοι ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ αὐτοῦ Ἰππίου, καὶ πάντων ἄν τῶν παλαιῶν ἤκουσας, ὅτι ταῦτα μόνον τὰ ἔτη τυραννὶς ἐγένετο ἐν Ἀθήναις, τὸν δ' ἄλλον χρόνον ἐγγύς τι ἕζων Ἀθηναῖοι ὥσπερ ἐπὶ Κρόνου βασιλεύοντος. λέγεται δὲ ὑπὸ τῶν χαριεστέρων ἀνθρώ-

**C** πων καὶ ὁ θάνατος αὐτοῦ γενέσθαι οὐ δι' ἃ οἱ πολλοὶ ᾤκηθησαν, διὰ τὴν τῆς ἀδελφῆς ἀτιμίαν τῆς κληρονομίας, ἐπεὶ τοῦτό γε εὖηθες, ἀλλὰ τὸν μὲν Ἀρμόδιον γεγονέναι παιδικὰ τοῦ Ἀριστογείτονος καὶ πεπαιδεῦσθαι ὑπ' ἐκείνου. μέγα δ' ἐφρόνει ἄρα καὶ ὁ Ἀριστογείτων ἐπὶ τῷ παιδεῦσαι ἀνθρώπον, καὶ ἀνταγωνιστὴν ἠγεῖτο εἶναι τὸν Ἰππαρχον. ἐν ἐκείνῳ δὲ τῷ χρόνῳ αὐτὸν τὸν Ἀρμόδιον

**D** τυγχάνειν ἐρῶντά τινος τῶν νέων τε καὶ καλῶν καὶ γενναίων τῶν τότε· καὶ λέγουσι τοῦνομα αὐτοῦ, ἐγὼ δὲ οὐ μέμνημαι· τὸν οὖν νεανίσκον τοῦτον τέως μὲν θαυμάζειν τὸν τε Ἀρμόδιον καὶ τὸν Ἀριστογείτονα ὡς σοφούς, ἔπειτα συγγενόμενον τῷ Ἰππάρχῳ καταφρονῆσαι ἐκείνων, καὶ τοὺς περιαλγήσαντας ταύτῃ τῇ ἀτιμίᾳ οὕτως ἀποκτεῖναι τὸν Ἰππαρχον

<sup>1</sup> On this point the writer agrees with Thuc. vi. 59, who gives what is now the accepted story of Harmodius and Aristogeiton.

## HIPPARCHUS

The memorial of Hipparchus : deceive not a friend.

I therefore should never dare, I am sure, to deceive you, who are my friend, or disobey the great Hipparchus, after whose death the Athenians were for three years under the despotic rule of his brother Hippias, and you might have heard anyone of the earlier period say that it was only in these years that there was despotism in Athens,<sup>1</sup> and that at all other times the Athenians lived very much as in the reign of Cronos. And the subtler sort of people say that Hipparchus's death was due, not to the cause supposed by most—the disqualification of the assassin's sister from bearing the basket,<sup>2</sup> for that is a silly motive—but because Harmodius had become the favourite of Aristogeiton and had been educated by him. Thus Aristogeiton also prided himself on educating people, and he regarded Hipparchus as a dangerous rival. And at that time, it is said, Harmodius happened to be himself in love with one of the handsome and well-born youths of the day; they do tell his name, but I cannot remember it. Well, for a while this youth admired both Harmodius and Aristogeiton as wise men, but afterwards, when he associated with Hipparchus, he despised them, and they were so overcome with the pain of *this* "disqualification" that they slew Hipparchus.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In the Panathenaic procession.

<sup>3</sup> This curious version of the fall of the Pisistratid rulers (Hippias and Hipparchus) seeks to explain the conspiracy as due to a rivalry in a sort of pre-Socratic influence over young men which arose between the citizen Aristogeiton and the ruler Hipparchus.

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ΕΤ. Κινδυνεύεις τοίνυν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἢ οὐ φίλον με ἠγείσθαι ἢ, εἰ ἠγῆ φίλον, οὐ πείθεσθαι Εἰ Ἰππάρχῳ. ἐγὼ γὰρ ὅπως οὐ σὺ ἐμὲ ἐξαπατᾶς, οὐκ οἶδ' ὄντινα μέντοι τρόπον, ἐν τοῖς λόγοις, οὐ δύναμαι πεισθῆναι.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ μὴν καὶ ὥσπερ πεττεύων ἐθέλω σοι ἐν τοῖς λόγοις ἀναθέσθαι ὅ τι βούλει τῶν εἰρημένων, ἵνα μὴ οἷη ἐξαπατᾶσθαι. πότερον γὰρ τοῦτό σοι ἀναθῶμαι, ὡς οὐχὶ τῶν ἀγαθῶν πάντες ἐπιθυμοῦσιν ἄνθρωποι;

ΕΤ. Μή μοί γε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ὡς τὸ ζημιοῦσθαι καὶ ἢ ζημία οὐ κακόν;

ΕΤ. Μή μοί γε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ὡς οὐ τῇ ζημίᾳ καὶ τῷ ζημιοῦσθαι τὸ κέρδος καὶ τὸ κερδαίνειν ἐναντίον;

230 ΕΤ. Μηδὲ τοῦτο.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ὡς ἐναντίον ὃν τῷ κακῷ οὐκ ἀγαθόν ἐστι τὸ κερδαίνειν;

ΕΤ. Οὔτι πᾶν γε τουτί μοι ἀνάθου.

ΣΩ. Δοκεῖ ἄρα σοι, ὡς ἔοικε, τοῦ κέρδους τὸ μὲν τι ἀγαθὸν εἶναι, τὸ δέ τι κακόν.

ΕΤ. Ἐμοιγε.

ΣΩ. Ἀνατίθεμαι τοίνυν σοὶ τοῦτο· ἔστω γὰρ δὴ κέρδος τι ἀγαθὸν καὶ ἕτερον κέρδος τι κακόν· κέρδος δέ γε οὐδὲν μᾶλλον ἐστὶν αὐτῶν τὸ ἀγαθὸν ἢ τὸ κακόν· ἢ γάρ;

ΕΤ. Πῶς με ἐρωτᾶς;

ΣΩ. Ἐγὼ φράσω. σιτίον ἐστὶ τι ἀγαθόν τε καὶ κακόν;

Β ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν μᾶλλον τι αὐτῶν ἐστὶ τὸ ἕτερον τοῦ

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FR. It would seem, then, Socrates, either that you do not regard me as your friend, or if you do, that you do not obey Hipparchus. For that you are not deceiving me—though I cannot tell how you contrive it—in your talk, is more than I can believe.

soc. Well now, as though we were playing draughts, I am willing to let you revoke, as you please, anything you have said in carrying on the discussion, in order that you may not think you are being deceived. So tell me, shall I revoke for you the statement that all men desire good things?

FR. No, thank you.

soc. Well, that suffering loss, or loss, is an evil?

FR. No, thank you.

soc. Well, that gain, or making gain, is the opposite of loss, or suffering loss?

FR. Nor that either.

soc. Well, that making gain, as the opposite of evil, is a good?

FR. Nothing of all this do I bid you revoke for me.

soc. You think, then, it seems, that some gain is good, and some evil.

FR. I do.

soc. Well then, I revoke so much for you; so let us assume that some gain is good, and some other gain evil. But the good sort is no more gain than the evil sort, is it?

FR. What do you mean by this question?

soc. I will explain. Is there both good and evil food?

FR. Yes.

soc. And is the one sort more food than the other,

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έτέρου σιτίον, ἢ ὁμοίως τοῦτό γε, σιτία, ἔστων ἀμφοτέρα καὶ ταύτη γε οὐδὲν διαφέρει τὸ ἕτερον τοῦ έτέρου, κατὰ τὸ σιτίον εἶναι, ἀλλὰ ἢ τὸ μὲν αὐτῶν ἀγαθόν, τὸ δὲ κακόν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ποτὸν καὶ τᾶλλα πάντα, ὅσα τῶν ὄντων ταῦτὰ ὄντα τὰ μὲν πέπονθεν ἀγαθὰ εἶναι, τὰ δὲ κακά, οὐδὲν ἐκείνη γε διαφέρει τὸ ἕτερον τοῦ έτέρου, ἢ τὸ αὐτό ἐστιν; ὡσπερ  
C ἄνθρωπος δήπου ὁ μὲν χρηστός ἐστιν, ὁ δὲ πονηρός.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἄνθρωπός γε, οἶμαι, οὐδέτερος οὐδετέρου οὔτε μᾶλλον οὔτε ἥττον ἐστιν, οὔτε ὁ χρηστός τοῦ πονηροῦ οὔτε ὁ πονηρός τοῦ χρηστοῦ.

ΕΤ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οὕτω καὶ περὶ τοῦ κέρδους διανοώμεθα, ὡς κέρδος γε ὁμοίως ἐστὶ καὶ τὸ πονηρὸν καὶ τὸ χρηστόν;

ΕΤ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲν ἄρα μᾶλλον κερδαίνει ὁ τὸ χρηστόν κέρδος ἔχων ἢ τὸ πονηρόν· οὔκουν μᾶλλον γε  
D κέρδος φαίνεται οὐδέτερον ὄν, ὡς ὁμολογοῦμεν.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐδετέρω γὰρ αὐτῶν οὔτε τὸ μᾶλλον οὔτε τὸ ἥττον πρόσεστιν.

ΕΤ. Οὐ γὰρ δή.

ΣΩ. Τῷ δὴ τοιούτῳ πράγματι πῶς ἂν τις μᾶλλον ἢ ἥττον ὀτιοῦν ἂν ποιοῖ ἢ πάσχοι, ᾧ μηδέτερον τούτων προσείη;

ΕΤ. Ἀδύνατον.

ΣΩ. Ἐπειδὴ τοίνυν κέρδη μὲν ὁμοίως ἐστὶν ἀμφοτέρα καὶ κερδαλέα, τουτὶ δὴ δεῖ ἡμᾶς ἐπι-



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or are they both similarly this same thing, food, and in this respect does the one differ no wise from the other, in being food, but only in the fact of the one being good and the other evil ?

FR. Yes.

soc. And so with drink and every other class of things that exist, when some things in any class come to be good, and others evil, one thing does not differ from another in that respect whereby they are the same ? For instance, one man, I suppose, is virtuous, and another wicked.

FR. Yes.

soc. But neither of them, I conceive, is more or less man than the other—neither the virtuous than the wicked, nor the wicked than the virtuous.

FR. What you say is true.

soc. Then are we to take the same view of gain also, that both the wicked and the virtuous sort are similarly gain ?

FR. Necessarily.

soc. So he who has virtuous gain is no whit the more a gainer than he who has wicked gain : neither sort is found to be more gain, as we agree.

FR. Yes.

soc. For neither of them has addition of either more or less.

FR. No, indeed.

soc. And how could one do or suffer anything more or less with a thing of this sort, that had neither of these additions ?

FR. Impossible.

soc. Since, therefore, both of these are gains and gain-making affairs, we must now consider what it

σκέψασθαι, διὰ τί ποτε ἀμφοτέρα αὐτὰ κέρδος  
 Ε καλεῖς, τί ταυτὸν ἐν ἀμφοτέροις ὄρων; ὥσπερ ἂν  
 εἶ [ᾶ]<sup>1</sup> σύ με ἠρώτας τὰ νῦν δῆ, διὰ τί ποτε καὶ τὸ  
 ἀγαθὸν σιτίον καὶ τὸ κακὸν σιτίον ὁμοίως ἀμφοτέρα  
 σιτία καλῶ, εἶπον ἂν σοι, διότι ἀμφοτέρα ξηρὰ  
 τροφή σώματός ἐστι, διὰ τοῦτο ἔγωγε· τοῦτο γὰρ  
 εἶναι σιτίον κἂν σύ που ἡμῖν ὁμολογοῖς. ἦ γάρ;  
 ΕΤ. Ἐγώ γε.

231 ΣΩ. Καὶ περὶ ποτοῦ οὖν ὁ αὐτὸς ἂν τρόπος εἴη  
 τῆς ἀποκρίσεως, ὅτι τῇ τοῦ σώματος ὑγρᾷ τροφῇ,  
 εἴαν τε χρηστὴ εἴαν τε πονηρὰ ἦ, τοῦτο τὸ ὄνομά  
 ἐστι, ποτόν· καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις ὡσαύτως. πειρῶ οὖν  
 καὶ σὺ ἐμὲ μιμῆσθαι οὕτως ἀποκρινόμενον. τὸ  
 χρηστὸν κέρδος καὶ τὸ πονηρὸν κέρδος κέρδος φῆς  
 ἀμφοτέρον εἶναι τί τὸ αὐτὸ ἐν αὐτοῖς ὄρων, ὅτι  
 δῆ καὶ τοῦτο κέρδος ἐστίν; εἰ δ' αὖ μὴ αὐτὸς  
 ἔχεις ἀποκρίνασθαι, ἀλλ' ἐμοῦ λέγοντος σκόπει,  
 ἄρα κέρδος λέγεις πᾶν κτήμα, ὃ ἂν τις κτήσῃται  
 ἢ μηδὲν ἀναλώσας, ἢ ἔλαττον ἀναλώσας πλέον  
 λάβῃ;

Β ΕΤ. Ἐμοιγε δοκῶ τοῦτο καλεῖν κέρδος.

ΣΩ. Ἐπειδὴ καὶ τὰ τοιαῦτα λέγεις, εἴαν τις ἐστιαθεῖς,  
 μηδὲν ἀναλώσας ἀλλ' εὐωχηθεῖς, νόσον κτήσῃται;

ΕΤ. Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ὑγίειαν δὲ κτησάμενος ἀπὸ ἐστιάσεως  
 κέρδος ἂν κτήσῃται ἢ ζημίαν;

ΕΤ. Κέρδος.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα τοῦτό γ' ἐστὶ κέρδος, τὸ ὅτι οὖν  
 κτήμα κτήσασθαι.

ΕΤ. Οὐ μέντοι.

<sup>1</sup> a del. Schleiermacher.

## HIPPARCHUS

can be that leads you to call both of them gain : what is it that you see to be the same in both ? Suppose you were to ask me, in those instances that I gave just now, what it is that leads me to call both good food and evil food alike food, I should tell you— for this reason, because both are a dry sustenance of the body. For that, I am sure you would agree, is what food is, would you not ?

FR. I would.

soc. And so too about drink the answer would be on the same lines, that the wet sustenance of the body, whether it be wholesome or pernicious, has this name of drink ; and likewise with the rest. Try therefore on your part to imitate my method of answering. When you say that virtuous gain and wicked gain are both gain, what is it that you see to be the same in them, judging it to be the actual element of gain ? And if again you are yourself unable to answer, just let me put it for your consideration, whether you describe as gain every acquisition that one has acquired either with no expense, or as a profit over and above one's expense.

FR. I believe that is what I call gain.

soc. Do you include a case where, after enjoying a banquet at which one has had much good cheer without any expense, one acquires an illness ?

FR. Upon my word, not I.

soc. And if one acquired health from attending a banquet, would one acquire gain or loss ?

FR. Gain.

soc. Hence gain is not just acquiring any acquisition.

FR. No, indeed.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Πότερον οὐκ, ἐὰν κακόν; ἢ οὐδ' ἂν ἀγαθὸν  
ὅτιοῦν κτήσεται, οὐ κέρδος κτήσεται;

ΕΤ. Φαίνεται, ἐάν γε ἀγαθόν.

C ΣΩ. Ἐὰν δὲ κακόν, οὐ ζημίαν κτήσεται;

ΕΤ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ὅρας οὖν, ὡς πάλιν αὖ περιτρέχεις εἰς τὸ  
αὐτό; τὸ μὲν κέρδος ἀγαθὸν φαίνεται, ἢ δὲ ζημία  
κακόν.

ΕΤ. Ἀπορῶ ἔγωγε ὅ τι εἶπω.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἀδίκως γε σὺ ἀπορῶν. ἔτι γὰρ καὶ  
τόδε ἀπόκριναι· ἐάν τις ἔλαττον ἀναλώσας πλέον  
κτήσεται, φῆς κέρδος εἶναι;

ΕΤ. Οὐτι κακόν γε λέγω, ἀλλ' ἐὰν χρυσίον ἢ  
ἀργύριον ἔλαττον ἀναλώσας πλέον λάβῃ.

ΣΩ. Καὶ ἐγὼ μέλλω τοῦτο ἐρήσεσθαι. φέρε  
D γάρ, ἐάν τις χρυσίου σταθμὸν ἤμισυν ἀναλώσας  
διπλάσιον λάβῃ ἀργυρίου, κέρδος ἢ ζημίαν εἶληφεν;

ΕΤ. Ζημίαν δήπου, ὦ Σώκρατες· ἀντὶ δωδεκα-  
στασίου γὰρ διστάσιον αὐτῷ καθίσταται τὸ χρυσίον.

ΣΩ. Καὶ μὴν πλέον γ' εἶληφεν· ἢ οὐ πλέον ἐστὶ τὸ  
διπλάσιον τοῦ ἡμίσεος;

ΕΤ. Οὐτι τῇ ἀξία γε ἀργύριον χρυσίου.

ΣΩ. Δεῖ ἄρα, ὡς ἔοικε, τῷ κέρδει τοῦτο προσεῖναι,  
τὴν ἀξίαν. νῦν γοῦν τὸ μὲν ἀργύριον πλέον ὄν τοῦ  
χρυσίου οὐ φῆς ἄξιον εἶναι, τὸ δὲ χρυσίον ἔλαττον  
ὄν ἄξιον φῆς εἶναι.

E ΕΤ. Σφόδρα· ἔχει γὰρ οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Τὸ μὲν ἄξιον ἄρα κερδαλέον ἐστίν, ἐάν τε  
σμικρὸν ἢ ἐάν τε μέγα, τὸ δὲ ἀνάξιον ἀκερδές.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

## HIPPARCHUS

soc. Do you mean, not if it is evil? Or will one acquire no gain even if one acquires something good?

FR. Apparently one will, if it is good.

soc. And if it is evil, will not one acquire loss?

FR. I think so.

soc. You see, then, how you are running round again to the same old point? Gain is found to be good, and loss evil.

FR. For my part, I cannot tell what to say.

soc. And not without good reason, sir. Now answer this further question: you say that if one acquires more than the amount one has spent, it is gain?

FR. I do not mean, when it is evil, but if one gets more gold or silver than one has spent.

soc. Now, I am just going to ask you about that. Tell me, if one spends half a pound of gold and gets double that weight in silver, has one got gain or loss?

FR. Loss, I presume, Socrates: for one's gold is reduced to twice, instead of twelve times, the value of silver.

soc. But you see, one has got more; or is double not more than half?

FR. Not in worth, the one being silver and the other gold.

soc. So gain, it seems, must have this addition of *worth*. At least, you now say that silver, though more than gold, is not worth as much, and that gold, though less, is of equal worth.

FR. Assuredly, for that is the case.

soc. Then the valuable is what produces gain, whether it be small or great, and the valueless produces no gain.

FR. Yes.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Τὸ δὲ ἄξιον λέγεις ἄξιον εἶναι ἄλλο τι ἢ κεκτῆσθαι;

ΕΤ. Ναί, κεκτῆσθαι.

ΣΩ. Τὸ δὲ ἄξιον αὖ λέγεις κεκτῆσθαι τὸ ἀνωφελὲς ἢ τὸ ὠφέλιμον;

ΕΤ. Τὸ ὠφέλιμον δήπου.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν τὸ ὠφέλιμον ἀγαθὸν ἐστίν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

232 ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν, ὦ ἀνδρειότατε πάντων, οὐ τὸ κερδαλέον ἀγαθὸν αὖ πάλιν τρίτον ἢ τέταρτον ἤκει ἡμῖν ὁμολογούμενον;

ΕΤ. Ἔοικεν.

ΣΩ. Μνημονεύεις οὖν, ὅθεν ἡμῖν οὗτος ὁ λόγος γέγονεν;

ΕΤ. Οἶμαί γε.

ΣΩ. Εἰ δὲ μή, ἐγὼ σε ὑπομνήσω. ἠμφισβήτησάς μοι τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς μὴ πάντα τὰ κέρδη βούλεσθαι κερδαίνειν, ἀλλὰ τῶν κερδῶν τὰ ἀγαθὰ, τὰ δὲ πονηρὰ μὴ.

ΕΤ. Ναίχι.

B ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν νῦν πάντα τὰ κέρδη ὁ λόγος ἡμᾶς ἠνάγκακε καὶ σμικρὰ καὶ μεγάλα ὁμολογεῖν ἀγαθὰ εἶναι;

ΕΤ. Ἐνάγκακε γάρ, ὦ Σώκρατες, μᾶλλον ἐμέ γε ἢ πέπεικεν.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἴσως μετὰ τοῦτο καὶ πείσειεν ἄν· νῦν δ' οὖν, εἴτε πέπεισαι εἴτε ὅπωςδὴ ἔχεις, σύμφης γοῦν ἡμῖν πάντα τὰ κέρδη ἀγαθὰ εἶναι, καὶ σμικρὰ καὶ μεγάλα.

ΕΤ. Ὅμολογῶ γὰρ οὖν.

ΣΩ. Τοὺς δὲ χρηστοὺς ἀνθρώπους βούλεσθαι τὰ ἀγαθὰ ὁμολογεῖς ἅπαντα ἅπαντας ἢ οὐ;

## HIPPARCHUS

soc. And by the valuable you mean simply, valuable to possess ?

FR. Yes, to possess.

soc. And again, by what is valuable to possess, do you mean the unprofitable or the profitable ?

FR. The profitable, I presume.

soc. And the profitable is good ?

FR. Yes.

soc. And so, most valiant of men, have we not here once more, for the third or fourth time, the admission that what produces gain is good ?

FR. So it seems.

soc. Then do you remember the point from which this discussion of ours arose ?

FR. I think I do.

soc. In case you do not, I will remind you. You maintained against me that good men do not wish to make all sorts of gain, but only those gains that are good, and not those that are wicked.

FR. Yes.

soc. And now the argument has compelled us to acknowledge that all gains, both small and great, are good ?

FR. Yes, it has compelled me, at least, Socrates, rather than persuaded me.

soc. Well, later on, perhaps, it might also persuade you. Now, however, whether you are persuaded or whatever is your feeling, you at least agree with me that all gains are good, both small and great ones.

FR. Yes, I do admit it.

soc. And you admit that virtuous men all wish for all good things, do you not ?

## PLATO

ΕΤ. Ὁμολογῶ.

С ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὲν δὴ τοὺς γε πονηροὺς αὐτὸς<sup>1</sup>  
εἶπες ὅτι καὶ σμικρὰ καὶ μεγάλα κέρδη φιλοῦσιν.

ΕΤ. Εἶπον.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν κατὰ τὸν σὸν λόγον πάντες ἄνθρωποι  
φιλοκερδεῖς ἂν εἶεν, καὶ οἱ χρηστοὶ καὶ οἱ πονηροί.

ΕΤ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα ὀρθῶς ὀνειδίζει, εἴ τίς τω ὀνειδίζει  
φιλοκερδεῖ εἶναι· τυγχάνει γὰρ καὶ ὁ ταῦτα ὀνει-  
δίζων αὐτὸς τοιοῦτος ὢν.

<sup>1</sup> αὐτὸς Bekker: αὐτοὺς MSS.



## HIPPARCHUS

FR. I do.

SOC. But, you know, you stated yourself that wicked men love both small and great gains.

FR. I did.

SOC. And so, by your account, all men will be lovers of gain, whether they be virtuous or wicked.

FR. Apparently.

SOC. Hence it is not right to reproach anybody with being a lover of gain : for he who makes this reproach is actually such an one himself.



THE LOVERS

## INTRODUCTION TO *THE LOVERS*

THE conversation here related by Socrates takes place in a school, where a number of boys and young men of good birth and looks have come to take the regular courses of reading, writing, recitation, and arithmetic, and to acquire the elements of geometry and astronomy. The scene in the school is swiftly and vividly described. Socrates soon finds himself talking with two young men of opposite character and training : like Amphion and Zethus in Euripides' *Antiope* (referred to in the *Gorgias*, 485-6), they have given their time, one to the humane studies of music, literature and rational debate (all of which were embraced by the Greeks under the general term "music"); and the other, who has turned his back on these refinements, to athletic exercise and prowess. Their antagonism is further sharpened by the fact that they are both ardent admirers of one of a pair of boys or striplings, who have been earnestly disputing over some astronomical theory, but who now turn their attention to the debate between Socrates and the two lovers.

Socrates raises the question of philosophy, which has been suggested by the sight of the two young astronomers. The athletic lover, of course, feels nothing but contempt for it; but his literary rival cannot commend it too highly, and describes it as

## INTRODUCTION TO *THE LOVERS*

the lifelong acquisition of fresh knowledge (133 c). But if "much learning" is the meaning of philosophy, we must consider *how much* learning is good for us: we find, for instance, that a moderate or measured amount of exercise and food is best in athletics; and it would seem that a certain moderation in learning will be best for the soul (134 d, e). The trainer and the doctor will give us the right measure of exercise and food for a good condition of body, but who will fix it for the acquirements of the soul? This important question is left unanswered. But if we cannot tell exactly *how much*, let us see if we can say *what* the philosopher ought to learn. The youth suggests that he should learn just so much of each art or craft as will enable him, through his intelligent grasp of what is done in each, to impress people with his knowledge and cleverness (135 d). Socrates objects that, on this view, the philosopher will be like an all-round athlete who may be able to beat ordinary athletes, but must be only second-best when matched with anyone who specializes in one sort of contest. As the youth adheres to his statement, Socrates points out that a second-rate person must be useless and mischievous in any emergency, so long as a specialist is available (136 c). In fact, the philosopher must be something quite different from that (137 b).

At this point Socrates, rather abruptly, turns the talk on to the subject of right and wrong, with especial reference to the judge or governor who has to decide between them (137 d). The skill required for such decisions is the highest that we know of: it is the true state-craft, which should combine knowledge of human nature and of oneself,

## PLATO

“temperance” or reasoned self-control, and justice. Is the philosopher to be only second-rate, and so practically useless, in the all-important business of applying these arts or powers? Or is he, above all others, to undertake such work himself, as being his peculiar business? The youth agrees that he must; and Socrates ends by saying that philosophy is something quite different from erudition and theoretical knowledge of the arts.

The little drama of the dialogue is well conceived and conducted. From the pleasant scene of life in the fashionable school we pass to the contrast between the arrogant young votary of letters and the simple-minded sportsman, who has the amusement of seeing his disdainful rival humbled by the elucidating questions of Socrates. The easy grace of the narrative reminds one of the *Charmides* and the *Lysis*; and the search for the true content and meaning of philosophy might well be a resumption of the remark on the various learning of the sophist Hippias in the *Protagoras* (318 E). Conformably with Plato's early manner, the important question of the due *measure* in learning, as in all else, is just stated clearly, and then left for future investigation. The interesting conception of the philosopher as something like our newspaper critic, and indeed as little more than a smatterer in the arts, arose naturally from the distaste felt by the best Greek society for manual labour, and from the high value set on frequent and acute discussion of everything under the sun. The Athenians especially, as Thucydides tells us through the mouth of Pericles, believed in the utility of rational debate for the life of an enterprising people; and Socrates is hardly fair to the sophists, or to him-

## INTRODUCTION TO *THE LOVERS*

self, when he classes the man who cultivates this ability as useless. But his hasty condemnation of the ordinary critical observer is explained when we reach the concluding section. "Yes," we seem to be told, "philosophy is a kind of criticism or discrimination, but not the petty, meddling kind that you suppose. The philosopher must be supreme in a special sphere of his own, where he will be the one authority on good and evil, right and wrong."

The sudden, impatient manner in which this glimpse of the philosopher is given, and the guise in which he is shown, are not unplatonic: yet, apart from certain details of language, this last section has a clumsy abruptness which suggests that the whole piece may be the work of a skilful imitator, who is successful enough with the dramatic narrative, but cannot rise to the higher levels of Plato's thought and art; and it is to be noted that here the important work of distinguishing the true from the false is not included in the philosopher's business. We should have expected Plato to have either concealed the gaps and loose ends with some more playfulness, or to have more ably connected and sustained his treatment of so high and intimate a theme.

# ΕΡΑΣΤΑΙ

[Η ΠΕΡΙ ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΙΑΣ· ΗΘΙΚΟΣ]

St. I  
p. 132

Εἰς Διονυσίου τοῦ γραμματιστοῦ εἰσῆλθον, καὶ εἶδον αὐτόθι τῶν τε νέων τοὺς ἐπιεικεστάτους δοκοῦντας εἶναι τὴν ιδέα καὶ πατέρων εὐδοκίμων, καὶ τούτων ἐραστάς. ἐτυχανέτην οὖν δύο τῶν μειρακίων ἐρίζοντε, περὶ ὅτου δέ, οὐ σφόδρα κατήκουον· ἐφαιέσθην μέντοι ἢ περὶ Ἀναξαγόρου ἢ περὶ Οἰνοπίδου ἐρίζειν· κύκλους γοῦν γράφειν Β ἐφαιέσθην καὶ ἐγκλίσεις τινὰς ἐμιμοῦντο τοῖν χεροῖν ἐπικλίνοντε καὶ μάλ' ἐσπουδακότε. καὶ γὰρ —καθήμην γὰρ παρὰ τὸν ἐραστὴν τοῦ ἐτέρου αὐτοῖν—κινήσας οὖν αὐτὸν τῷ ἀγκῶνι ἠρόμην, ὃ τί ποθ' οὕτως ἐσπουδακότε τῷ μειρακίῳ εἶτην, καὶ εἶπον· Ἡ που μέγα τι καὶ καλόν ἐστι, περὶ ὃ τοσαύτην σπουδὴν πεποιημένω ἐστόν;

Ὁ δ' εἶπε, Ποῖον, ἔφη, μέγα καὶ καλόν; ἀδολεσχοῦσι μὲν οὖν οὗτοί γε περὶ τῶν μετεώρων καὶ φλυαροῦσι φιλοσοφοῦντες.

Κ Καὶ ἐγὼ θαυμάσας αὐτοῦ τὴν ἀπόκρισιν εἶπον·

<sup>1</sup> The Ionian philosopher who lived in friendship with Pericles at Athens.



## THE LOVERS

[OR ON PHILOSOPHY : ETHICAL]

I ENTERED the grammar school of the teacher Dionysius, and saw there the young men who are accounted the most comely in form and of distinguished family, and their lovers. Now it chanced that two of the young people were disputing, but about what, I did not clearly overhear : it appeared, however, that they were disputing either about Anaxagoras<sup>1</sup> or about Oenopides<sup>2</sup>; at any rate, they appeared to be drawing circles, and they were imitating certain inclinations<sup>3</sup> with their arms, bending to it and taking it most earnestly. Then I—for I was sitting beside the lover of one of the pair—nudged him with my elbow and asked him what on earth the two youngsters were so earnest about, and I said : Is it then something great and fine, in which they are so earnestly immersed ?

Great and fine, indeed ! he replied : why, these fellows are prating about the heavenly bodies, and babbling philosophy.

Then I, surprised at his answer, said : Young man,

<sup>2</sup> A philosopher of Chios, distinguished as a geometer and astronomer.

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* the slopes of the contours of the earth, and of the apparent course of the sun (ecliptic).

᾽Ω νεανία, αἰσχρὸν δοκεῖ σοι εἶναι τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν;  
ἢ τί οὕτως χαλεπῶς λέγεις;

Καὶ ὁ ἕτερος—πλησίον γὰρ καθήμενος ἐτύγχανεν αὐτοῦ, ἀντεραστῆς ὢν—ἀκούσας ἐμοῦ τε ἐρομένου κάκείου ἀποκρινομένου, Οὐ πρὸς σοῦ γε, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, ποιεῖς τὸ καὶ ἀνερέσθαι τοῦτον, εἰ αἰσχρὸν ἡγεῖται φιλοσοφίαν εἶναι. ἢ οὐκ οἶσθα τοῦτον, ὅτι τραχηλιζόμενος καὶ ἐμπιπλάμενος καὶ καθεύδων πάντα τὸν βίον διατετέλεκεν; ὥστε σὺ τί αὐτὸν ᾧ ἀποκρινεῖσθαι ἄλλ' ἢ ὅτι αἰσχρὸν ἐστι φιλοσοφία;

D Ἦν δὲ οὗτος μὲν τοῖν ἔρασταῖν περὶ μουσικὴν διατετριφῶς, ὁ δ' ἕτερος, ὃν ἐλοιδόρει, περὶ γυμναστικὴν. καὶ μοι ἔδοξε χρῆναι τὸν μὲν ἕτερον ἀφιέναι, τὸν ἐρωτώμενον,<sup>1</sup> ὅτι οὐδ' αὐτὸς προσποιεῖτο περὶ λόγων ἐμπειρος εἶναι ἀλλὰ περὶ ἔργων, τὸν δὲ σοφώτερον προσποιούμενον εἶναι διερωτῆσαι, ἵνα καὶ εἴ τι δυναίμην παρ' αὐτοῦ ὠφεληθείην. εἶπον οὖν ὅτι Εἰς κοινὸν μὲν τὸ ἐρώτημα ἡρόμην· εἰ δὲ σὺ οἶει τοῦδε κάλλιον ἂν ἀποκρίνασθαι, σὲ ἐρωτῶ τὸ αὐτὸ ὅπερ καὶ τοῦτον, εἰ δοκεῖ σοι τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν καλὸν εἶναι ἢ οὐ.

133 Σχεδὸν οὖν ταῦτα λεγόντων ἡμῶν ἐπακούσαντε τῷ μειρακίῳ ἐσιγησάτην, καὶ αὐτῷ παυσαμένῳ τῆς ἔριδος ἡμῶν ἀκροαταὶ ἐγενέσθην. καὶ ὅ τι μὲν οἱ ἔρασταὶ ἔπαθον, οὐκ οἶδα, αὐτὸς δ' οὖν ἐξεπλάγην· αἰεὶ γάρ ποτε ὑπὸ τῶν νέων τε καὶ καλῶν ἐκπλήττομαι. ἐδόκει μέντοι μοι καὶ ὁ ἕτερος οὐχ

<sup>1</sup> ἐρωτώμενον Schleiermacher: ἐρώμενον MSS.

## THE LOVERS

do you consider philosophizing to be shameful? Else, why do you speak so sharply?

Then the other youth—for he chanced to be sitting near him, as his rival in love—when he heard my question and his rival's answer, said: You do yourself no good, Socrates, by pressing this fellow with a further question, as to whether he considers philosophizing to be shameful. Do you not know that he has spent the whole of his life in practising the neck-hold, and stuffing himself, and sleeping? So why did you suppose he would make any other reply than that philosophy is shameful?

Now this one of the two lovers had spent his time on humane studies,<sup>1</sup> whereas the other, whom he was abusing, had spent his on athletics. So I decided that I had best relinquish the other, whom I had been questioning, since he did not even himself set up to be experienced in words, but only in deeds; and that I should interrogate the one who set up to be wiser, in order that so far as I was able I might get some benefit from him. I said therefore: I addressed my question to both in common; but if you think you could answer more creditably than he, I put the same question to you as I did to him: do you consider philosophizing to be honourable or not?

Then the two striplings, overhearing us speak somewhat like this, were silent, and ceasing from their own contention they became listeners to ours. What their lovers' sensations were, I do not know, but I myself, at any rate, was staggered; for every time I am staggered by handsome young people. It seemed to me, however, that my young friend too

<sup>1</sup> Literally, "on music," which with the Greeks included poetry and general literature as well as music.

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ἤττον ἐμοῦ ἀγωνιᾶν· οὐ μὴν ἀλλ' ἀπεκρίνατό γέ μοι καὶ μάλα φιλοτίμως. Ὅποτε γάρ τοι, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν αἰσχρὸν ἡγησαίμην εἶναι, οὐδ' ἂν ἄνθρωπον νομίσαιμι ἐμαυτὸν εἶναι, οὐδ' ἄλλον τὸν οὕτω διακεείμενον, ἐνδεικνύμενος εἰς τὸν ἀντεραστήν, καὶ λέγων μεγάλη τῇ φωνῇ, ἵν' αὐτοῦ κατακούοι τὰ παιδικά.

Καὶ ἐγὼ εἶπον, Καλὸν ἄρα δοκεῖ σοι τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν;

Πάνυ μὲν οὖν, ἔφη.

Τί οὖν, ἐγὼ ἔφην· ἢ δοκεῖ σοι οἷόν τε εἶναι εἰδέναι πρᾶγμα ὅτιοῦν εἶτε καλὸν εἶτε αἰσχρὸν ἐστίν, ὃ μὴ εἰδείη τις τὴν ἀρχὴν ὅ τι ἐστίν;

Οὐκ ἔφη.

C Οἶσθ' ἄρα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ὅ τι ἐστὶ τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν;

Πάνυ γε, ἔφη.

Τί οὖν ἐστίν; ἔφην ἐγώ.

Τί δ' ἄλλο γε, ἢ κατὰ τὸ Σόλωνος; Σόλων γάρ που εἶπε

γηράσκω δ' αἰεὶ πολλὰ διδασκόμενος·

καὶ ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ οὕτως αἰεὶ χρῆναι ἔν γέ τι μανθάνειν τὸν μέλλοντα φιλοσοφήσειν, καὶ νεώτερον ὄντα καὶ πρεσβύτερον, ἵν' ὡς πλείστα ἐν τῷ βίῳ μάθῃ. καί μοι τὸ μὲν πρῶτον ἔδοξε τὶ εἰπεῖν, ἔπειτά πως ἐννοήσας ἡρόμην αὐτόν, εἰ τὴν φιλοσοφίαν πολυμαθίαν ἡγοῦτο εἶναι.

D Κακεῖνος, Πάνυ, ἔφη.

Ἐγὼ δὲ δὴ καλὸν εἶναι μόνον τὴν φιλοσοφίαν ἢ καὶ ἀγαθόν; ἦν δ' ἐγώ.

Καὶ ἀγαθόν, ἔφη, πάνυ.

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was in as great a flutter as myself ; but nevertheless he answered me in a most ambitious spirit : Why, of course, Socrates, he said, if I should ever consider philosophizing to be shameful, I should not account myself so much as a man, nor anyone else either who was disposed to think so. Here he pointed to his rival lover, and spoke with a loud voice, in order that his favourite might hear every word.

Then I remarked : So philosophizing seems to you to be honourable ?

Quite so, he said.

Well now, I said ; does it seem to you possible to know whether anything is honourable or shameful without knowing what it is fundamentally ?

No, he said.

Then do you know, I went on, what philosophizing is ?

Certainly I do, said he.

Then what is it ? I asked.

Why, just what Solon called it ; you know it was Solon who said :

And ever, as I older grow, I learn yet more and more ;— and I agree with him that a man who intends to philosophize should in this way be ever learning something or other, whether he be younger or older, in order that he may learn as many things as possible in his life. Now at first I felt there was something in his reply, but then, on second thoughts, I asked him whether he considered philosophy to be much learning.

To which he answered : Certainly.

And do you consider philosophy to be merely honourable, I asked, or good as well ?

Good as well, he said : very much so.

Πότερον οὖν ἐν φιλοσοφίᾳ τι τοῦτο ἴδιον ἐνοραῖς, ἢ καὶ ἐν τοῖς ἄλλοις οὕτω σοι δοκεῖ ἔχειν; οἷον φιλογυμνασίαν οὐ μόνον ἡγῆ καλὸν εἶναι, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀγαθόν; ἢ οὐ;

Ἄρα καὶ μάλα εἰρωνικῶς ἔφη δύο· Πρὸς μὲν τόνδε μοι εἰρήσθω, ὅτι οὐδέτερα· πρὸς δὲ σέ, ὦ Σώκρατες, ὁμολογῶ καὶ καλὸν εἶναι καὶ ἀγαθόν·  
 Ε ἡγοῦμαι γὰρ ὀρθῶς.

Ἡρώτησα οὖν ἐγώ, Ἄρα οὖν καὶ ἐν τοῖς γυμνασίοις τὴν πολυπονίαν φιλογυμνασίαν ἡγῆ εἶναι;

Κακείνος ἔφη, Πάνυ γε, ὥσπερ γε καὶ ἐν τῷ φιλοσοφεῖν τὴν πολυμαθίαν φιλοσοφίαν ἡγοῦμαι εἶναι.

Καὶ γὰρ εἶπον, Ἡγῆ δὲ δὴ τοὺς φιλογυμναστοῦντας ἄλλου του ἐπιθυμεῖν ἢ τούτου, ὃ τι ποιήσει αὐτοὺς εὖ ἔχειν τὸ σῶμα;

Τούτου, ἔφη.

Ἡ οὖν οἱ πολλοὶ πόνοι τὸ σῶμα, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ποιῶσιν εὖ ἔχειν;

134 Πῶς γὰρ ἂν, ἔφη, ἀπὸ γε ὀλίγων πόνων τὸ σῶμά τις εὖ ἔχοι;

Καὶ μοι ἔδοξεν ἤδη ἐνταῦθα κινητέος εἶναι ὁ φιλογυμναστής, ἵνα μοι βοηθήσῃ διὰ τὴν ἐμπειρίαν τῆς γυμναστικῆς· κάπειτα ἠρόμην αὐτόν, Σὺ δὲ δὴ τί σιγᾶς ἡμῖν, ὦ λῶστε, τούτου ταῦτα λέγοντος; ἢ καὶ σοὶ δοκοῦσιν οἱ ἄνθρωποι εὖ τὰ σώματα ἔχειν ἀπὸ τῶν πολλῶν πόνων, ἢ ἀπὸ τῶν μετρίων;

Ἐγὼ μὲν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἔφη, ὦμην τὸ λεγόμενον  
 Β δὴ τοῦτο κὰν ἔν<sup>1</sup> γινῶναι, ὅτι οἱ μέτριοι πόνοι εὖ ποιῶσιν ἔχειν τὰ σώματα, πόθεν δὲ οὐχὶ ἄνδρα γε ἄγρυπνόν τε καὶ ἄσιτον καὶ ἀτριβῆ τὸν τράχηλον

<sup>1</sup> κὰν ἐν Hermann: καὶ νῦν MSS.

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Then do you observe this as peculiar to philosophy, or do you find it similarly in everything else? For example, do you consider the love of athletics to be not merely honourable, but good as well, or do you not?

Whereupon he, most slyly, gave a double answer: To *him* my statement must be "neither"; but to you, Socrates, I acknowledge it to be both honourable and good: for I consider this the right view.

Then I asked him: Well now, in athletics, do you consider that much exercise is love of athletics?

To which he replied: Certainly, just as in philosophizing I consider much learning to be philosophy.

Then I said: And do you then consider that the lovers of athletics desire anything else than that which will cause them to be in good bodily condition?

Only that, he replied.

And does much exercise, I asked, cause them to be in good bodily condition?

Yes, for how, he replied, could one be in good bodily condition through little exercise?

Here I felt it was time to stir up the lover of athletics, in order that he might give me the support of his athletic experience; so I proceeded to ask him: And you then, pray, why are you silent, excellent sir, while your friend here is speaking thus? Do you agree that men are in good bodily condition through much exercise, or is it rather through moderate exercise?

For my part, Socrates, he said, I thought even a pig—as the saying is—would have known that moderate exercise causes them to be in good bodily condition, so why should not a fellow who is sleepless and

ἔχοντα καὶ λεπτόν ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν; καὶ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα εἰπόντος ἤσθη τὰ μεράκια καὶ ἔπεγέλασεν, ὁ δ' ἕτερος ἠρυθρίασε.

Καὶ ἐγὼ εἶπον, Τί οὖν; σὺ ἤδη συγχωρεῖς μήτε πολλοὺς μήτε ὀλίγους πόνους εὖ ποιεῖν ἔχειν τὰ σώματα τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἀλλὰ τοὺς μετρίους; ἢ διαμάχη δυοῖν ὄντων νῶν περὶ τοῦ λόγου;

C Κἀκεῖνος, Πρὸς μὲν τοῦτον, ἔφη, κἂν πάνυ ἠδέως διαγωνισαίμην, καὶ εὖ οἶδ' ὅτι ἰκανὸς ἂν γενοίμην βοηθῆσαι τῇ ὑποθέσει, ἣν ὑπεθέμην, καὶ εἰ ταύτης ἔτι φανλοτέρα ὑπεθέμην· οὐδὲν γάρ ἐστι πρὸς μέντοι σέ οὐδὲν δέομαι παρὰ δόξαν φιλονικεῖν, ἀλλ' ὁμολογῶ μὴ τὰ πολλὰ ἀλλὰ τὰ μέτρια γυμνάσια τὴν εὐεξίαν ἐμποιεῖν τοῖς ἀνθρώποις.

Τί δὲ τὰ σιτία; τὰ μέτρια ἢ τὰ πολλὰ; ἔφη ἔγώ.

Καὶ τὰ σιτία ὁμολόγει.

D Ἔτι δὲ κἀγὼ προσηνάγκαζον αὐτὸν ὁμολογεῖν καὶ τᾶλλα πάντα τὰ περὶ τὸ σῶμα ὠφελιμώτατα εἶναι τὰ μέτρια, ἀλλὰ μὴ τὰ πολλὰ μηδὲ τὰ ὀλίγα· καὶ μοι ὁμολόγει τὰ μέτρια.

Τί δέ, ἔφην, τὰ περὶ τὴν ψυχὴν; τὰ μέτρια ὠφελεῖ ἢ τὰ ἄμετρα τῶν προσφερομένων;

Τὰ μέτρια, ἔφη.

Οὐκοῦν ἐν τῶν προσφερομένων ψυχῇ ἐστὶ καὶ τὰ μαθήματα.

Ὁμολόγει.

Καὶ τούτων ἄρα τὰ μέτρια ὠφελεῖ, ἀλλ' οὐ τὰ πολλὰ;

Συνέφη.



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unfed, with unchafed neck and slender, care-worn frame! And when he had said this the boys were delighted and laughed their approval, while the other lover blushed.

Then I said to him: Well, do *you* now concede that it is neither much, nor little, but moderate exercise that causes men to be in good bodily condition? Or do you bid defiance to the two of us on this point?

To which he answered: Against him I should be only too glad to fight it out, and I am certain I should prove able to support the theory I have put forward, even had I put forward a weaker one; for he is naught. But with you I do not aim at winning an unscrupulous success; and so I admit that not a great but a moderate amount of athletics causes good condition in men.

And what of food? Moderate or much? I asked.

The same applied to food, he admitted.

Then I went on and tried to compel him also to admit that everything else connected with the body when most beneficial, was the moderate thing, not the much or the little; and he admitted that it was the moderate thing.

And now, I said, as regards the soul; are moderate or immoderate things beneficial, as adjuncts of it?

Moderate things, he replied.

And are studies among the adjuncts of the soul?

He admitted they were.

So among these also it is the moderate that are beneficial, and not the much?

He agreed.

PLATO

Τίνα οὖν ἐρόμενοι ἂν δικαίως ἐροίμεθα, ὅποιοι μέτριοι πόνοι καὶ σιτία πρὸς τὸ σῶμά ἐστιν;

Ὁμολογοῦμεν μὲν τρεῖς ὄντες, ὅτι ἰατρὸν ἢ παιδοτρίβην.

Ε Τίνα δ' ἂν περὶ σπερμάτων σπορᾶς, ὅποσον μέτριον;

Καὶ τούτου τὸν γεωργὸν ὠμολογοῦμεν.

Τίνα δὲ περὶ μαθημάτων εἰς ψυχὴν φυτεύσεώς τε καὶ σπορᾶς ἐρωτῶντες δικαίως ἂν ἐροίμεθα, ὅποσα καὶ ὅποια μέτρια;

Τοῦντεῦθεν ἤδη ἀπορίας μεστοὶ ἦμεν ἅπαντες·  
135 κἀγὼ προσπαίζων αὐτοὺς ἠρόμην, Βούλεσθε, ἔφην, ἐπειδὴ ἡμεῖς ἐν ἀπορίᾳ ἐσμέν, ἐρώμεθα ταυτὶ τὰ μειράκια; ἢ ἴσως αἰσχνόμεθα, ὥσπερ ἔφη τοὺς μνηστήρας Ὅμηρος, μὴ ἀξιοῦντες<sup>1</sup> εἶναι τινα ἄλλον, ὅστις ἐντενεῖ τὸ τόξον;

Ἐπειδὴ οὖν μοι ἐδόκουν ἀθυμεῖν πρὸς τὸν λόγον, ἄλλη ἐπειρώμην σκοπεῖν, καὶ εἶπον, Ποῖα δὲ μάλιστ' ἄττα τοπάζομεν εἶναι τῶν μαθημάτων, ἃ δεῖ τὸν φιλοσοφοῦντα μαθάνειν, ἐπειδὴ οὐχὶ πάντα οὐδὲ πολλά;

Β Ὑπολαβῶν οὖν ὁ σοφώτερος εἶπεν ὅτι Κάλλιστα ταῦτ' εἴη τῶν μαθημάτων καὶ προσήκοντα, ἀφ' ὧν ἂν πλείστην δόξαν ἔχοι τις εἰς φιλοσοφίαν· πλείστην δ' ἂν ἔχοι δόξαν, εἰ δοκοῖη τῶν τεχνῶν ἔμπειρος εἶναι πασῶν, εἰ δὲ μὴ, ὡς πλείστων γε καὶ μάλιστα τῶν ἀξιολόγων, μαθὼν αὐτῶν ταῦτα, ἃ προσήκει τοῖς ἐλευθέροις μαθεῖν, ὅσα συνέσεως ἔχεται, μὴ ὅσα χειρουργίας.

<sup>1</sup> ἀξιοῦντες Cobet: ἀξιούντων, ἀξιούντας MSS.

<sup>1</sup> *Od.* xxi. 285 foll., where the suitors of Penelope are  
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Then whom should we be justified in asking what sort of exercise or food is moderate for the body ?

The three of us agreed that it must be a doctor or a trainer.

And whom should we ask about the moderate measure in the sowing of seed ?

In that matter, we agreed, it must be a farmer.

And whom should we be justified in asking as to the moderate degree and kind, in regard to the sowing and planting of studies in the soul ?

At this point we all began to be full of perplexity ; then I, mocking at them, asked : Do you mind, since we are in perplexity, if we ask these boys here ? Or perhaps we are ashamed, as Homer<sup>1</sup> said the suitors were, and do not think it fit there should be someone else who will string the bow ?

Then, as it seemed to me that they were losing their zeal for the argument, I tried to pursue the inquiry in another way, and said : But what, as nearly as we can guess, are the kinds of learning which the philosopher should learn, since he is not to learn all things or many things ?

At this the wiser one interjected : The finest and most suitable kinds of learning are those which will bring him the most reputation for philosophy ; and he will get most reputation if he appears well versed in all the arts, or if not in all, in as many of them, and those the most considerable, as he can, by learning so much of them as befits a free man to learn, that is, what belongs to the understanding rather than the handiwork of each.

ashamed, after they have failed to string the great bow of Odysseus, to let its owner, disguised as a beggar, try his strength on it, and perhaps succeed.

Ἄρ' οὖν οὕτω λέγεις, ἔφην ἐγώ, ὥσπερ ἐν τῇ τεκτονικῇ; καὶ γὰρ ἐκεῖ τέκτονα μὲν ἂν πρίαιο C πέντε ἢ ἕξ μνῶν, ἄκρον ἀρχιτέκτονα δὲ οὐδ' ἂν μυρίων δραχμῶν· ὀλίγοι γε μὴν κἂν ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς Ἑλλησι γίγνοιτο. ἄρα μήτι τοιοῦτον λέγεις; καὶ ὅς ἀκούσας μου συνεχώρει καὶ αὐτὸς λέγειν τοιοῦτον.

Ἡρόμην δ' αὐτόν, εἰ οὐκ ἀδύνατον εἶη δύο μόνας τέχνας οὕτω μαθεῖν τὸν αὐτόν, μὴ ὅτι πολλὰς καὶ μεγάλας· ὁ δέ, Μὴ οὕτως μου, ἔφην, ὑπολάβης, ὦ Σώκρατες, ὡς λέγοντος, ὅτι δεῖ ἐκάστην τῶν τεχνῶν D τὸν φιλοσοφοῦντα ἐπίστασθαι ἀκριβῶς, ὥσπερ αὐτὸν τὸν τὴν τέχνην ἔχοντα, ἀλλ' ὡς εἰκὸς ἄνδρα ἐλευθέρων τε καὶ πεπαιδευμένον, ἐπακολουθῆσαί τε τοῖς λεγομένοις ὑπὸ τοῦ δημιουργοῦ οἷόν τ' εἶναι διαφερόντως τῶν παρόντων, καὶ αὐτὸν συμβάλ- λεσθαι γνώμην, ὥστε δοκεῖν χαριέστατον εἶναι καὶ σοφώτατον τῶν αἰεὶ παρόντων ἐν τοῖς λεγομένοις τε καὶ πραττομένοις περὶ τὰς τέχνας.

Κἀγώ, ἔτι γὰρ αὐτοῦ ἠμφεγνόουν τὸν λόγον ὃ τι ἐβούλετο, Ἄρ' ἐννοῶ, ἔφην, οἷον λέγεις τὸν φιλό- E σοφον ἄνδρα; δοκεῖς γάρ μοι λέγειν οἷον ἐν τῇ ἀγωνίᾳ εἰσὶν οἱ πένταθλοι πρὸς τοὺς δρομέας ἢ τοὺς παλαιστάς. καὶ γὰρ ἐκεῖνοι τούτων μὲν λείπονται κατὰ τὰ τούτων ἀθλα καὶ δεύτεροί εἰσι πρὸς τούτους, τῶν δὲ ἄλλων ἀθλητῶν πρῶτοι καὶ νικῶσι αὐτούς. τάχ' ἂν ἴσως τοιοῦτόν τι λέγοις καὶ τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν ἀπεργάζεσθαι τοὺς

<sup>1</sup> A mina (= 100 drachmae) would be about £6-£8 in our money to-day.

<sup>2</sup> Literally, athletes trained for the contest of the five exercises of leaping, running, disc-flinging, javelin-throwing, and wrestling.

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Well now, do you mean, I asked, in the same way as in carpentry? For there, you know, you can buy a carpenter for five or six minae,<sup>1</sup> but a first-rate architect cannot be got for even ten thousand drachmae; few such, indeed, could be found throughout the whole of Greece. Is it something of this sort that you mean? When he heard me say this, he admitted that something like this was what he himself meant.

I next asked him if it was not impossible for the same person to learn in this way merely two of the arts, not to speak of many or the principal ones; to which he replied: Do not conceive me, Socrates, to be stating that the philosopher must have accurate knowledge of each of the arts, like the actual adept in any of them; I mean only so far as may be expected of a free and educated man: that is, he should be able to follow the explanations of the craftsman more readily than the rest of the company, and to contribute an opinion of his own which will make him appear the cleverest and most accomplished of the company who may at any time be present at some verbal or practical exposition of the arts.

Then, as I was still unsettled in my mind as to the drift of his words, I asked him: Do I quite grasp the sort of man whom you mean by the philosopher? For you seem to me to mean someone like the all-round athletes<sup>2</sup> in contest with the runners or the wrestlers: the former yield, you know, to the latter in their particular exercises, and are their inferiors in these, but are superior to the usual sort of athletes and beat them. I daresay it may be something of this sort that you would suggest as the effect produced by philosophy on those who

136 ἐπιτηδεύοντας τοῦτο τὸ ἐπιτήδευμα· τῶν μὲν  
 πρώτων εἰς σύνεσιν περὶ τὰς τέχνας ἑλλείπεσθαι,  
 τὰ δευτερεῖα δ' ἔχοντας τῶν ἄλλων περιεῖναι, καὶ  
 οὕτως γίγνεσθαι περὶ πάντα ὑπακρόν τινα ἄνδρα  
 τὸν πεφιλοσοφηκότα· τοιοῦτόν τινα μοι δοκεῖς  
 ἐνδείκνυσθαι.

Καλῶς γέ μοι, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, φαίνη ὑπολαμ-  
 βάνειν τὰ περὶ τοῦ φιλοσόφου, ἀπεικάσας αὐτὸν  
 τῷ πεντάθλῳ. ἔστι γὰρ ἀτεχνῶς τοιοῦτος οἷος  
 μὴ δουλεύειν μηδενὶ πράγματι, μηδ' εἰς τὴν  
 ἀκρίβειαν μηδὲν διαπεπονηκένοι, ὥστε διὰ τὴν  
 τοῦ ἐνὸς τούτου ἐπιμέλειαν τῶν ἄλλων ἀπάντων  
 Β ἀπολελείφθαι, ὥσπερ οἱ δημιουργοί, ἀλλὰ πάντων  
 μετρίως ἐφῆθη.

Μετὰ ταύτην δὴ τὴν ἀπόκρισιν ἐγὼ προθυμού-  
 μενος σαφῶς εἰδέναι ὅ τι λέγοι, ἐπυνθανόμην αὐτοῦ,  
 τοὺς ἀγαθοὺς πότερον χρησίμους ἢ ἀχρήστους  
 εἶναι ὑπολαμβάνοι.

Χρησίμους δήπου, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἔφη.

Ἄρ' οὖν, εἶπερ οἱ ἀγαθοὶ χρήσιμοι, οἱ πονηροὶ  
 ἀχρηστοί;

Ὡμολόγει.

Τί δέ; τοὺς φιλοσόφους ἄνδρας χρησίμους ἡγή-  
 ῃ οὔ;

Ο δὲ ὠμολόγει χρησίμους, καὶ πρὸς γε ἔφη  
 C χρησιμωτάτους εἶναι ἡγεῖσθαι.

Φέρε δὴ γνῶμεν, εἰ σὺ ἀληθῆ λέγεις, ποῦ καὶ  
 χρήσιμοι ἡμῖν εἰσὶν οἱ ὑπακροὶ οὗτοι; δῆλον γὰρ  
 ὅτι ἐκάστου γε τῶν τὰς τέχνας ἐχόντων φαυλότερός  
 ἐστὶν ὁ φιλόσοφος.

Ὡμολόγει.

Φέρε δὴ σύ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, εἰ τύχοις ἢ αὐτὸς ἀσθενή-

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make it their pursuit : they yield to those who are first-rate in an understanding of the arts, but in taking the second place they surpass the rest ; and in this way the man who has studied philosophy comes just next to the top in everything. That is the kind of person whom you appear to me to indicate.

You are quite right, it seems to me, Socrates, he said, in your conception of the philosopher's position, with your comparison of him to the all-round athlete. For it is precisely his nature not to be enslaved to any business, or to work out anything exactly, so as to let his application to that one matter make him deficient in the rest, as the craftsmen do, but to have a moderate contact with all of them.

Well, after this answer I was eager to know clearly what he meant, so I inquired of him whether he conceived of good men as useful or useless.

Useful, I should say, Socrates, he replied.

Then if good men are useful, are wicked men useless ?

He agreed that they were.

Again, do you consider that philosophers are useful persons or not ?

He agreed that they were useful ; nay, more, that he considered they were most useful of all.

Come now, let us make out, if what you say is true, where these second-best men are also useful to us : for clearly the philosopher is inferior to any particular adept in the arts.

He agreed.

Well now, I went on, if you yourself, or one of your

σας ἢ τῶν φίλων τις τῶν σῶν, περὶ ὧν σὺ σπουδῆν μεγάλην ἔχεις, πότερον ὑγείαν βουλόμενος κτήσασθαι τὸν ὑπακρον ἐκείνου [τὸν φιλόσοφον]<sup>1</sup> εἰσάγοις ἂν εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν ἢ τὸν ἰατρὸν λάβοις;

D Ἀμφοτέρους ἔγωγ' ἂν, ἔφη.

Μή μοι, εἶπον ἐγώ, ἀμφοτέρους λέγε, ἀλλ' ὁπότερον μᾶλλον τε καὶ πρότερον.

Οὐδεὶς ἂν, ἔφη, τοῦτό γε ἀμφισβητήσειεν, ὡς οὐχὶ τὸν ἰατρὸν καὶ μᾶλλον καὶ πρότερον.

Τί δ'; ἐν νηὶ χειμαζομένη ποτέρῳ ἂν μᾶλλον ἐπιτρέποις σαυτὸν τε καὶ τὰ σεαυτοῦ, τῷ κυβερνήτῃ ἢ τῷ φιλοσόφῳ;

Τῷ κυβερνήτῃ ἔγωγε.

Οὐκοῦν καὶ τᾶλλα πάνθ' οὕτως, ἕως ἂν τις δημιουργὸς ᾗ, οὐ χρησίμος ἐστὶν ὁ φιλόσοφος;

Φαίνεται, ἔφη.

E Οὐκοῦν νῦν ἀχρηστός τις ἡμῖν ἐστὶν ὁ φιλόσοφος; εἰσὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν αἰεὶ<sup>2</sup> που δημιουργοί· ὠμολογήσαμεν δὲ τοὺς μὲν ἀγαθοὺς χρησίμους εἶναι, τοὺς δὲ μοχθηροὺς ἀχρήστους.

Ἦναγκάζεταιτο ὁμολογεῖν.

Τί οὖν μετὰ τοῦτο; ἔρωμαί σε ἢ ἀγροικότερόν ἐστιν ἐρέσθαι;

Ἐροῦ ὃ τι βούλει.

137 Οὐδὲν δὴ, ἔφην ἐγώ, ζητῶ ἄλλο ἢ ἀνομολογήσασθαι τὰ εἰρημένα. ἔχει δέ πως ὠδί. ὠμολογήσαμεν καλὸν εἶναι τὴν φιλοσοφίαν [καὶ αὐτοὶ φιλόσοφοι εἶναι],<sup>3</sup> τοὺς δὲ φιλοσόφους ἀγαθοὺς, τοὺς δὲ ἀγαθοὺς χρησίμους, τοὺς δὲ πονηροὺς ἀχρήστους· αὐθις δ' αὖ τοὺς φιλοσόφους ὠμολογήσαμεν, ἕως ἂν οἱ δημιουργοὶ ὦσιν, ἀχρήστους

<sup>1</sup> τὸν φιλόσοφον secl. Cobet.



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friends for whom you feel great concern, should have fallen sick, would you fetch that second-best man into the house with a view to obtaining health, or would you summon a doctor ?

For my part, I should have both, he replied.

Please do not say "both," I said, but which of the two you would prefer and also summon first.

No one, he replied, would make any question but that the doctor should be preferred and also summoned first.

And again, if you were in a ship that was making rough weather, to which would you rather entrust yourself and yours, the pilot or the philosopher ?

I should choose the pilot.

And so it will be in everything else : so long as there is some craftsman, the philosopher will not be useful ?

Apparently, he replied.

So now we find that the philosopher is a useless person ? For I suppose we always have craftsmen ; and we have agreed that good men are useful, and bad ones useless.

He was obliged to agree to this.

Then what follows ? Am I to ask you, or will it be too ill-mannered ?

Ask whatever you please.

Well, my aim, I said, is merely to recall our agreements upon what has been stated. The matter stands somewhat like this. We agreed that philosophy is an honourable thing, and that philosophers are good ; and that good men are useful, and wicked men useless : but then again we agreed that philosophers, so long as we have craftsmen, are useless,

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<sup>2</sup> ἀεί Hermann : δῆ mss.

<sup>3</sup> καὶ αὐτοὶ φιλόσοφοι εἶναι secl. Schanz.

εἶναι, δημιουργοὺς δὲ αἰεὶ εἶναι. οὐ γὰρ ταῦτα ὠμολόγηται;

Πάνυ γε, ἦ δ' ὅς.

Ὁμολογοῦμεν ἄρα, ὡς ἔοικε, κατὰ γε τὸν σὸν λόγον, εἴπερ τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν ἐστὶ περὶ τὰς τέχνας ἐπιστήμονας εἶναι ὃν σὺ λέγεις τὸν τρόπον, πονηροὺς αὐτοὺς εἶναι καὶ ἀχρήστους, ἕως ἂν ἐν ἀνθρώποις τέχναι ὦσιν. ἀλλὰ μὴ οὐχ οὕτως, ὦ φίλε, ἔχωσι, μηδ' ἦ τοῦτο φιλοσοφεῖν, περὶ τὰς τέχνας ἐσπουδακῆναι, οὐδὲ πολυπραγμονοῦντα κυπτάζοντα ζῆν οὐδὲ πολυμαθοῦντα, ἀλλ' ἄλλο τι, ἐπεὶ ἐγὼ ὦμην καὶ ὄνειδος εἶναι τοῦτο καὶ βαναύσους καλεῖσθαι τοὺς περὶ τὰς τέχνας ἐσπουδακότας. ὦδε δὲ σαφέστερον εἰσόμεθα, εἰ ἄρ' ἀληθῆ λέγω, ἔαν τοῦτο ἀποκρίνη· τίνες ἵππους ἐπίστανται κολάζειν ὀρθῶς; πότερον οἴπερ βελτίστους ποιοῦσιν ἢ ἄλλοι;

Οἴπερ βελτίστους.

Τί δέ; κύνας οὐχ οἱ βελτίστους ἐπίστανται ποιεῖν, οὗτοι καὶ κολάζειν ὀρθῶς ἐπίστανται;

Ναί.

Ἡ αὐτὴ ἄρα τέχνη βελτίστους τε ποιεῖ καὶ κολάζει ὀρθῶς;

Φαίνεται μοι, ἦ δ' ὅς.

Τί δέ; πότερον ἢπερ βελτίστους τε ποιεῖ καὶ κολάζει ὀρθῶς, ἢ αὐτὴ δὲ καὶ γινώσκει τοὺς χρηστοὺς καὶ τοὺς μοχθηροὺς, ἢ ἕτερα τις;

Ἡ αὐτὴ, ἔφη.

Ἐθελήσεις οὖν καὶ κατ' ἀνθρώπους τοῦθ' ὁμο-

<sup>1</sup> βαναυσος expresses the peculiar contempt felt by Greek gentlemen for the work of artisans and even artists. Manual

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and that we always do have craftsmen. Has not all this been agreed ?

Yes, to be sure, he replied.

Then we agreed, it seems, by your account—if philosophizing means having knowledge of the arts in the way you describe—that philosophers are wicked and useless so long as there are arts among mankind. But I expect they are not so really, my friend, and that philosophizing is not just having a concernment in the arts or spending one's life in meddlesome stooping and prying and accumulation of learning, but something else ; because I imagined that this life was actually a disgrace, and that people who concerned themselves with the arts were called sordid.<sup>1</sup> But we shall know more definitely whether this statement of mine is true, if you will answer me this : What men know how to punish horses rightly ? Is it those who make them into the best horses, or some other men ?

Those who make them into the best horses.

Or again, is it not the men who know how to make dogs into the best dogs that know also how to punish them rightly ?

Yes.

Then it is the same art that makes them into the best dogs and punishes them rightly ?

It appears so to me, he replied.

Again, is the art that makes them into the best ones and punishes them rightly the same as that which knows the good and the bad ones, or is it some other ?

The same, he said.

Then in the case of men also will you be prepared

labour was the business of slaves and persons who were unfit for military and political life.

D λογεῖν, ἥπερ βελτίστους ἀνθρώπους ποιεῖ, ταύτην εἶναι καὶ τὴν κολάζουσιν ὀρθῶς καὶ διαγιγνώσκουσιν τοὺς χρηστοὺς τε καὶ τοὺς μοχθηροὺς;

Πάνυ γε, ἔφη.

Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἥτις ἓνα, καὶ πολλοὺς, καὶ ἥτις πολλοὺς, καὶ ἓνα;

Ναί.

Καὶ καθ' ἵππων δὴ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἀπάντων οὕτως;

Φημί.

Τίς οὖν ἐστὶν ἡ ἐπιστήμη, ἥτις τοὺς ἐν ταῖς πόλεσιν ἀκολασταίνοντας καὶ παρανομοῦντας ὀρθῶς κολάζει; οὐχ ἡ δικαστική;

Ναί.

Ἡ ἄλλην οὖν τινα καλεῖς καὶ δικαιοσύνην ἢ ταύτην;

Οὐκ, ἀλλὰ ταύτην.

E Οὐκοῦν ἥπερ κολάζουσιν ὀρθῶς, ταύτη καὶ γινώσκουσι τοὺς χρηστοὺς καὶ μοχθηροὺς;

Ταύτη.

Ὅστις δὲ ἓνα γινώσκει, καὶ πολλοὺς γινώσεται;

Ναί.

Καὶ ὅστις γε πολλοὺς ἀγνοεῖ, καὶ ἓνα;

Φημί.

Εἰ ἄρα ἵππος ὢν ἀγνοεῖ τοὺς χρηστοὺς καὶ πονηροὺς ἵππους, κἂν αὐτὸν ἀγνοεῖ, ποῖός τις ἐστίν;

Φημί.

Καὶ εἰ βοῦς ὢν ἀγνοεῖ τοὺς πονηροὺς καὶ χρηστοὺς <βοῦς>,<sup>1</sup> κἂν αὐτὸν ἀγνοεῖ, ποῖός τις ἐστίν;

Ναί, ἔφη.

Οὕτω δὴ καὶ εἰ κύων;

<sup>1</sup> βοῦς add. Bekker.

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to agree that the art which makes them into the best men is that which punishes them rightly and distinguishes the good and the bad ones ?

Certainly, he said.

And that which does this to one, does it also to many, and that which does it to many, does it also to one ?

Yes.

And so it is also with horses and everything else ?

I agree.

Then what is the knowledge which rightly punishes the licentious and law-breaking people in our cities ? Is it not judicature ?

Yes.

And is it any other art than this that you call justice ?

No, only this.

And that whereby they punish rightly is that whereby they know the good and bad people ?

It is.

And whoever knows one will know many also ?

Yes.

And whoever does not know many will not know one ?

I agree.

Then if one were a horse, and did not know the good and wicked horses, would one not know which sort one was oneself ?

I think not.

And if one were an ox and did not know the wicked and good oxen, would one not know which sort one was oneself ?

That is so, he said.

And so it would be, if one were a dog ?

᾽Ωμολόγει.

138 Τί δ'; ἐπειδὴν ἄνθρωπός τις ὦν ἀγνοῇ τοὺς χρηστοὺς καὶ μοχθηροὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἂρ' οὐχ αὐτὸν ἀγνοεῖ, πότερον χρηστός ἐστίν ἢ πονηρός, ἐπειδὴ καὶ αὐτὸς ἄνθρωπός ἐστιν;

Συνεχώρει.

Τὸ δ' ἑαυτὸν ἀγνοεῖν σωφρονεῖν ἐστὶν ἢ μὴ σωφρονεῖν;

Μὴ σωφρονεῖν.

Τὸ ἑαυτὸν ἄρα γινώσκειν ἐστὶ σωφρονεῖν;

Φημί, ἔφη.

Τούτ' ἄρα, ὡς ἔοικε, τὸ ἐν Δελφοῖς γράμμα παρακελεύεται, σωφροσύνην ἀσκεῖν καὶ δικαιοσύνην.

Ἔοικεν.

Τῇ αὐτῇ δὲ ταύτῃ καὶ κολάζειν ὀρθῶς ἐπιστάμεθα;

Ναί.

Οὐκοῦν ἢ μὲν κολάζειν ὀρθῶς ἐπιστάμεθα, Β δικαιοσύνη αὕτη ἐστίν, ἢ δὲ διαγιγνώσκειν καὶ ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἄλλους, σωφροσύνη;

Ἔοικεν, ἔφη.

Ταῦτὸν ἄρ' ἐστὶ καὶ δικαιοσύνη καὶ σωφροσύνη;

Φαίνεται.

Καὶ μὴν οὕτω γε καὶ αἱ πόλεις εὖ οἰκοῦνται, ὅταν οἱ ἀδικοῦντες δίκην διδῶσιν.

Ἄληθῆ λέγεις, ἔφη.

Καὶ πολιτικὴ ἄρα αὕτη ἐστίν.

Συνεδόκει.

Τί δὲ ὅταν εἷς ἀνὴρ ὀρθῶς πόλιν διοικῇ, ὄνομά γε τούτῳ οὐ τύραννός τε καὶ βασιλεύς;

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He agreed.

Well now, when one is a man, and does not know the good and bad men, one surely cannot know whether one is good or wicked oneself, since one is a man also oneself?

He granted this.

And is "not knowing oneself" being temperate,<sup>1</sup> or not being temperate?

Not being temperate.

So "knowing oneself" is being temperate?

I agree, he said.

So this is the message, it seems, of the Delphic inscription—that one is to practise temperance and justice.

It seems so.

And it is by this same art that we know also how to punish rightly?

Yes.

Then that whereby we know how to punish rightly is justice, and that whereby we know how to distinguish our own and others' quality is temperance?

It seems so, he said.

Then justice and temperance are the same thing?

Apparently.

And further, it is thus, you know, that cities are well ordered—when the wrongdoers pay the penalty.

That is true, he said.

Hence this is also statecraft.

He concurred.

Again, when one man governs a city rightly, is he not called a despot and king?

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Charmides* (Introduction and 164) for the connexion in thought and language between temperance and self-knowledge.

Φημί.

Οὐκοῦν βασιλικῇ τε καὶ τυραννικῇ τέχνη διοικεῖ;  
Οὕτως.

Καὶ αὐταὶ ἄρ' αἱ αὐταὶ τέχναι εἰσὶν ἐκείναις;  
Φαίνονται.

C Τί δὲ ὅταν εἰς ἃν ἀνὴρ οἰκίαν διοικῇ ὀρθῶς, τί ὄνομα τούτῳ ἐστίν; οὐκ οἰκονόμος τε καὶ δεσπότης;

Ναί.

Πότερον οὖν καὶ οὗτος δικαιοσύνη εὔ ἂν τὴν οἰκίαν διοικοῖ ἢ ἄλλη τινὶ τέχνῃ;

Δικαιοσύνη.

Ἔστιν ἄρα ταυτόν, ὡς ἔοικε, βασιλεύς, τύραννος, πολιτικός, οἰκονόμος, δεσπότης, σώφρων, δίκαιος. καὶ μία τέχνη ἐστὶ βασιλική, τυραννική, πολιτική, δεσποτική, οἰκονομική, δικαιοσύνη, σωφροσύνη.

Φαίνεται, ἔφη, οὕτως.

D Πότερον οὖν τῷ φιλοσόφῳ, ὅταν μὲν ἰατρὸς περὶ τῶν καμνόντων τι λέγη, αἰσχρὸν μήθ' ἔπεσθαι τοῖς λεγομένοις δύνασθαι μήτε συμβάλλεσθαι μηδὲν περὶ τῶν λεγομένων ἢ πραπτομένων, καὶ ὁπόταν ἄλλος τις τῶν δημιουργῶν, ὡσαύτως· ὅταν δὲ δικαστῆς ἢ βασιλεὺς ἢ ἄλλος τις ὧν νῦν δὴ διεληλύθαμεν, οὐκ αἰσχρὸν περὶ τούτων μήθ' ἔπεσθαι δύνασθαι μήτε συμβάλλεσθαι περὶ αὐτῶν;

Πῶς δ' οὐκ αἰσχρὸν, ὦ Σώκρατες, περί γε τοσούτων πραγμάτων μηδὲν ἔχειν συμβάλλεσθαι;

E Πότερον οὖν καὶ περὶ ταῦτα λέγωμεν, ἔφην, πένταθλον αὐτὸν δεῖν εἶναι καὶ ὑπακρον, καὶ ταύτης μὲν τὰ δευτερεῖα ἔχοντα πάντων τὸν φιλόσοφον,



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I agree.

And he governs by a kingly and despotic art ?

That is so.

And these arts are the same as the former ?

Apparently.

Again, when a man singly governs a house aright, what is he called ? Is he not a house-manager and master ?

Yes.

Then would he also govern his house well by justice, or by some other art ?

By justice.

Hence they are all the same, it seems,—king, despot, statesman, house-manager, master, and the temperate man and the just man ; and it is all one art,—the kingly, the despotic, the statesman's, the master's, the house-manager's, and justice and temperance.

It is so, apparently, he said.

Then, if it is disgraceful in the philosopher to be unable, when a doctor speaks about the sick, either to follow his remarks or to contribute anything of his own to what is being said or done, and to be in the same case when any other of the craftsmen speaks, is it not disgraceful that he should be unable, when it is a judge or a king or some other of the persons whom we have just instanced, either to follow their words or contribute anything to their business ?

It must indeed be disgraceful, Socrates, to have nothing to contribute to subjects of such great importance !

Are we then to say, I asked, that in these matters also he is to be an all-round athlete, a second-rate man, taking the second place in all the subjects of

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καὶ ἀχρεῖον εἶναι, ἕως ἂν τούτων τις ἦ, ἢ πρῶτον μὲν τὴν αὐτοῦ οἰκίαν οὐκ ἄλλω ἐπιτρεπτέον οὐδὲ τὰ δευτερεῖα ἐν τούτῳ ἐκτέον, ἀλλ' αὐτὸν κολαστέον δικάζοντα ὀρθῶς, εἰ μέλλει εὖ οἰκεῖσθαι αὐτοῦ ἢ οἰκία;

Συνεχώρει δὴ μοι.

Ἔπειτά γε δήπου ἐάν τε οἱ φίλοι αὐτῷ διαίτας ἐπιτρέπωσιν, ἐάν τε ἡ πόλις τι προστάτῃ δια-  
139 κρίνειν ἢ δικάζειν, αἰσχρὸν ἐν τούτοις, ὦ ἑταῖρε, δεύτερον φαίνεσθαι ἢ τρίτον καὶ μὴ οὐχ ἡγεῖσθαι;

Δοκεῖ μοι.

Πολλοῦ ἄρα δεῖ ἡμῖν, ὦ βέλτιστε, τὸ φιλοσοφεῖν πολυμαθία τε εἶναι καὶ ἡ περὶ τὰς τέχνας πραγματεία.

Εἰπόντος δ' ἐμοῦ ταῦτα ὁ μὲν σοφὸς αἰσχυνθεὶς τοῖς προειρημένοις ἐσίγησεν, ὁ δὲ ἀμαθὴς ἔφη ἐκείνως εἶναι· καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι ἐπήνεσαν τὰ εἰρημένα.

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this art—he, the philosopher—and is to be useless so long as there is one of these persons ; or that, first of all, he is to entrust his own house to nobody else and is not to take the second place in it, but is himself to judge and punish rightly, if his house is to be well managed ?

He granted me that it must be so.

Secondly, I presume, whether his friends entrust him with an arbitration, or the state charges him to determine or judge any matter, it is disgraceful for him, my good friend, in such cases, to be found in the second or third place, and not to lead ?

I agree.

Hence we see, my excellent sir, that philosophizing is very far from being much learning and that affair of busying oneself with the arts.

On my saying this the cultivated youth was silent, feeling ashamed for what he had said before, while the unlearned one said it was as I stated ; and the rest of the company praised the argument.



THE AGES

## INTRODUCTION TO THE *THEAGES*

THE purpose of this short dialogue is to set forth the nature of the potent influence which the society of Socrates was observed to have on his young companions. The pronouncement which he makes (128 D-130 E) on the divine agency by which he is directed in his guidance of others is a confession intended, apparently, as a serious confirmation of Alcibiades' after-dinner sketch of him, in the *Symposium*, as the magically beguiling satyr, the great enchanter of young men. In the present scene he is approached by Demodocus, an elderly man who has held high offices in the state, and who has now come to Athens from his rural retreat in order to place his son Theages with some suitable professor of that higher knowledge, or "wisdom," which the young man is anxious to learn. Socrates puts some questions to Theages on the nature of the wisdom that he seeks to acquire, and obtains the statement in reply that what he desires is to govern free citizens with their consent, as Themistocles, Pericles, Cimon, and other Athenian statesmen have done before (126 A); but as soon as he is asked who is to teach him this sort of wisdom, he admits that statesmen themselves are useless as instructors in their art, and asks Socrates to be his teacher (127 A). Demodocus warmly supports his son's request; he will

## INTRODUCTION TO THE *THEAGES*

sacrifice everything for so great a boon : but Socrates denies his fitness for the task. Theages, however, protests that several of his young friends have gained great advantage by the instruction they have had from Socrates. This draws from Socrates a remarkable account of the spiritual voice which, from his earliest years, has forbidden certain actions proposed either by himself or by those who have consulted him (128 D-129 D) ; and he indicates, by the story of Aristoides (*cf. Laches*, 179 foll.), that his influence is not a matter of particular lessons or definite instruction, but the mysterious effect of close association, and especially of actual contact, with his person (130). The good or ill success of the pupil thus depends entirely on the decision of an inscrutable will which presides over both the master and his mission ; and Theages hopes that, if it should not be propitious in his case, he may be able to conciliate it by some religious rite (131).

By thus declining to give any rational basis or meaning to his daily occupation, and referring its entire governance to that obscure supernatural sphere which he was willing to assume but not to discuss (*cf. Phaedrus*, 229, etc.), Socrates may be deemed less than faithful here to his general pursuit of accurate definition in the principles of ordinary affairs ; and the turn which he gives to the talk when it touches himself certainly shows him, for the nonce, an obscurantist. But apart from the exaggerations of his ignorance and incompetence which were habitual to his modesty, it should be observed that there is nothing in this account of his reliance on a spiritual sign that does not agree with what we find recorded of him elsewhere. In the *Apology* he gives

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a prohibition of the divine voice as the reason of his abstention from politics (31 c, d), and again, its silence as an indication that his defence in court was rightly conceived and conducted: hence the result—his death—must be for his good (40 A-C). There is mere irrational mystery in two instances which Plato gives of this strange intervention: the sign forbade Socrates to start on a walk until he had purified himself (*Phaedrus*, 242 B); and just as he was getting up from his seat in the dressing-room of a gymnasium it forbade him, and he had to sit down again (*Euthyd.* 272 E). "He forewarned many of his associates to do this or not to do that," says Xenophon (*Mem.* I. i. 4), "on the prognostication of the spiritual sign." There is nothing new, therefore, in his reference of all responsibility for his teaching and its results to the divine warning; though nowhere else in the Platonic writings do we find him dwelling on the matter at such length, and it is only in Xenophon that the intervention extends, as it does here, outside his own conduct to that of his companions. There is, it is true, a passage of the *Theaetetus* (150 D), occurring shortly before a mention of the "voice" as his guide in his dealings with young men (151 A), where he tells how those who associate with him, "if Heaven is kind to them, make amazing progress, as it seems to themselves and to others": but if we read the whole passage, and note the fine strength of its reasoning and expression, the awkward inconsequence of the *Theages* suggests that an imitator has tried to enlarge the mystical element in the Platonic Socrates at the expense of the intellectual process of his "midwifery."



## INTRODUCTION TO THE *THEAGES*

Some part of the inferiority so apparent in the *Theages* might be explained by assuming that it is a work of Plato's immaturity: but it is hard to believe that he could at any time have made Socrates indulge in the relation of stories about his friends (128 foll.) which tend to prove, not his main point—that it depends on the spiritual sign whether they are to benefit or not from his society—but rather the great importance to them of associating with him and heeding his prophetic warnings. There seems also to be no connexion in his preceding remark (128 B)—that he knows nothing but the one little subject of love-matters (*cf.* *Sympos.* 177 E, etc.); and his account of the divine aid that he receives and gives is sadly lacking in the usual Socratic humour. On the whole it must be concluded that the *Theages* was composed, probably in the second century B.C., by a careful student of Plato's writings who wished to emphasize the mystical side of Socrates; that it found a place at the Academy and in the Alexandrian Library among other such exercises; and that by the time of Thrasyllus, who made the first complete collection of Plato's writings early in the first century A.D., it was generally regarded as an early sketch by Plato, and so was included in the canon with his genuine dialogues.

*Theages* is mentioned in the *Republic* (496 B) as "our comrade," whose delicate health restrained him, like a bridle, from politics, and kept him in the path of philosophy: in the *Apology* (33 E) we find that he has died before the trial of Socrates (399 B.C.).

# ΘΕΑΓΗΣ

[Η ΠΕΡΙ ΣΟΦΙΑΣ · ΜΑΙΕΥΤΙΚΟΣ]

ΤΑ ΤΟΥΤ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΔΗΜΟΔΟΚΟΣ, ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ, ΘΕΑΓΗΣ

St. I  
p. 121

ΔΗ. ὦ Σώκρατες, ἐδεόμην ἄττα σοι ἰδιολογήσασθαι, εἰ σχολή· κἄν εἰ ἀσχολία δὲ μὴ πάνυ τις μεγάλη, ὅμως ἐμοῦ ἔνεκεν ποιήσαι σχολήν.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ καὶ ἄλλως τυγχάνω σχολάζων, καὶ δὴ σοῦ γε ἔνεκα καὶ πάνυ. ἄλλ' εἴ τι βούλει λέγειν, ἔξεστιν.

ΔΗ. Βούλει οὖν δεῦρο εἰς τὴν τοῦ Διὸς τοῦ ἐλευθερίου στοᾶν ἐκποδῶν ἀποχωρήσωμεν;

ΣΩ. Εἰ σοὶ δοκεῖ.

Β ΔΗ. Ἴωμεν δὴ. ὦ Σώκρατες, πάντα τὰ φυτὰ κινδυνεύει τὸν αὐτὸν τρόπον ἔχειν, καὶ τὰ ἐκ τῆς γῆς φυόμενα καὶ τὰ ζῶα τά τε ἄλλα καὶ ἄνθρωπος. καὶ γὰρ ἐν τοῖς φυτοῖς ῥᾶστον ἡμῖν τοῦτο γίγνεται, ὅσοι τὴν γῆν γεωργοῦμεν, τὸ παρασκευάσασθαι πάντα τὰ πρὸ τοῦ φυτεύειν καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ φυτεῦσαι. ἐπειδὴν δὲ τὸ φυτευθὲν βιωῶ, μετὰ τοῦτο θεραπεία τοῦ φύντος καὶ πολλή καὶ χαλεπή καὶ δύσκολος

# THEAGES

[OR ON WISDOM : " OBSTETRIC "]

## CHARACTERS

DEMODOCUS, SOCRATES, THEAGES

DEM. Socrates, I was wanting to have some private talk with you, if you had time to spare ; even if there is some demand, which is not particularly important, on your time, do spare some, nevertheless, for me.

soc. Why, in any case I happen to have time to spare, and for you, moreover, I have plenty. Well, you are free to say whatever you wish.

DEM. Then do you mind if we step aside here from the street into the portico of Zeus the Liberator <sup>1</sup> ?

soc. As you think best.

DEM. Let us go, then. Socrates, it would seem that all growths follow the same course, both those that grow from the earth, and the animals, including man. In regard to the plants, as you know, we who cultivate the earth find it the easiest part of our work to make all our preparations that are needed before planting, and to do the planting itself ; but when the plant begins to grow, thenceforward we have a great deal of difficult and vexatious business

<sup>1</sup> This portico or colonnade was near that of the King Archon, close to the Agora.

C γίγνεται. οὕτω δὲ ἔχειν ἔοικε καὶ τὸ περὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων· ἀπὸ τῶν ἑμαυτοῦ ἐγὼ πραγμάτων τεκμαίρομαι καὶ ἐς τὰλλα. καὶ γὰρ ἐμοὶ ἢ τοῦ υἱέος τουτουῦ, εἴτε φυτεΐαν εἴτε παιδοποιΐαν δεῖ αὐτὴν ὀνομάζειν, πάντων ῥάστη γέγονεν, ἢ δὲ τροφὴ δύσκολός τε καὶ αἰεὶ ἐν φόβῳ περὶ αὐτοῦ δεδιότι. τὰ μὲν οὖν ἄλλα πολλὰ ἂν εἴη λέγειν, ἢ δὲ νῦν παροῦσα ἐπιθυμία τούτῳ πάνυ με φοβεῖ· ἔστι μὲν γὰρ οὐκ ἀγεννής, σφαλερὰ δέ· ἐπιθυμεῖ γὰρ δὴ οὗτος ἡμῖν, ὧ Σώκρατες, ὡς φησι, σοφὸς

D γενέσθαι. δοκῶ γάρ μοι, τῶν ἡλικιωτῶν τινὲς αὐτοῦ καὶ δημοτῶν, εἰς τὸ ἄστυ καταβαίνοντες, λόγους τινὰς ἀπομνημονεύοντες διαταράττουσιν αὐτόν· οὓς ἐζήλωκε καὶ πάλαι μοι πράγματα παρέχει, ἀξιῶν ἐπιμεληθῆναί με ἑαυτοῦ καὶ χρήματα τελέσαι τινὶ τῶν σοφιστῶν, ὅστις αὐτὸν σοφὸν ποιήσει. ἐμοὶ δὲ τῶν μὲν χρημάτων καὶ ἔλαττον μέλει, ἡγοῦμαι δὲ τοῦτον οὐκ εἰς μικρὸν

122 κίνδυνον ἰέναι, οἳ σπεύδει. τέως μὲν οὖν αὐτὸν κατεῖχον παραμυθούμενος· ἐπειδὴ δὲ οὐκέτι οἷός τέ εἰμι, ἡγοῦμαι κράτιστον εἶναι πείθεσθαι αὐτῷ, ἵνα μὴ πολλάκις ἄνευ ἐμοῦ συγγενόμενός τῳ διαφθαρῇ. νῦν οὖν ἤκω ἐπ' αὐτὰ ταῦτα, ἵνα τῳ τούτων τῶν σοφιστῶν δοκούντων εἶναι συστήσω τουτονί. σὺ οὖν ἡμῖν εἰς καλὸν παρεφάνης, ὧ ἂν ἐγὼ μάλιστ' ἐβουλόμην περὶ τῶν τοιούτων μέλλων πράξειν συμβουλευσασθαι. ἀλλ' εἴ τι ἔχεις συμ-

B βουλεύειν ἐξ ὧν ἐμοῦ ἀκήκοας, ἔξεστί τε καὶ χρή.

## THEAGES

in tending the new growth. Such, it seems, is also the case in regard to men : I take my own concerns as evidence for judging of the rest. For indeed I have found the planting, or the procreation—which ever one ought to call it—of this son of mine the easiest thing in the world ; but his upbringing has been vexatious and a constant source of alarm, so great are my fears for him. Among the many instances that I could mention, the desire which occupies him at the moment is a thing that especially alarms me : for it is not an ill-bred desire, but a dangerous one, since here we have him, Socrates, as he says, desiring to become wise. My opinion is that some of his fellow-townsmen, about his own age, who pay visits to the city, excite him with accounts of certain discussions they have heard there ; and in his envy of these he has long been pestering me with the demand that I should take due thought for his needs, and pay fees to some sophist or other who will make him wise. Now I do not mind so much about the fees, but I believe he is running into no slight danger where he is hastening. I did for a time restrain him with good advice ; but since I am no longer able to do so, I believe my best course is to comply with his request, in order that he may not resort, perchance, behind my back to somebody who will corrupt him. So I have come now on this very business of placing this youth with one of these sophists, or purveyors of wisdom, as they are held to be. It is a happy chance, therefore, that has thrown you in our way, as I should be particularly glad, with this plan of action in my mind, to ask your advice. Come, if you have any advice to give on what you have heard from me, you not only may, but should, give it.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ μὲν δὴ, ὦ Δημόδοκε, καὶ λέγεται γε συμβουλή ἱερὸν χρῆμα εἶναι. εἶπερ οὖν καὶ ἄλλη ἤτισοῦν ἐστὶν ἱερά, καὶ αὕτη ἂν εἴη, περὶ ἧς σὺ νῦν συμβουλεύῃ· οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶ περὶ ὅτου θειοτέρου ἂν ἄνθρωπος βουλευσάιτο ἢ περὶ παιδείας καὶ C αὐτοῦ καὶ τῶν αὐτοῦ οἰκείων. πρῶτον μὲν οὖν ἐγὼ τε καὶ σὺ συνομολογήσωμεν, τί ποτε οἰόμεθα τοῦτ' εἶναι, περὶ οὗ βουλευόμεθα· μὴ γὰρ πολλάκις ἐγὼ μὲν ἄλλο τι αὐτὸ ὑπολαμβάνω, σὺ δὲ ἄλλο, κᾶπειτα πόρρω που τῆς συνουσίας αἰσθώμεθα γελοῖοι ὄντες, ἐγὼ τε ὁ συμβουλευὼν καὶ σὺ ὁ συμβουλευόμενος, μηδὲν τῶν αὐτῶν ἡγούμενοι.

ΔΗ. Ἀλλὰ μοι δοκεῖς ὀρθῶς λέγειν, ὦ Σώκρατες, καὶ ποιεῖν χρῆ οὕτω.

ΣΩ. Καὶ λέγω γε ὀρθῶς, οὐ μέντοι παντάπασί γε, σμικρὸν γάρ τι μετατίθεμαι. ἐννοῶ γάρ, μὴ καὶ ὁ D μειρακίσκος οὗτος οὐ τούτου ἐπιθυμεῖ, οὐ ἡμεῖς αὐτὸν οἰόμεθα ἐπιθυμεῖν, ἀλλ' ἑτέρου, εἴτ' αὖ ἡμεῖς ἔτι ἀτοπώτεροι ὦμεν περὶ ἄλλου του βουλευόμενοι. ὀρθότατον οὖν μοι δοκεῖ εἶναι ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τούτου ἄρχεσθαι, διαπνυθανομένους ὅ τι καὶ ἐστὶν οὗ ἐπιθυμεῖ.

ΔΗ. Κινδυνεύει γοῦν οὕτω βέλτιστον εἶναι ὡς σὺ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Εἶπέ δὴ μοι, τί καλὸν ὄνομα τῷ νεανίσκῳ; τί αὐτὸν προσαγορεύωμεν;

ΔΗ. Θεάγης ὄνομα τούτῳ, ὦ Σώκρατες.

E ΣΩ. Καλὸν γε, ὦ Δημόδοκε, τῷ υἱεῖ τὸ ὄνομα ἔθου καὶ ἱεροπρεπές. εἶπέ δὴ ἡμῖν, ὦ Θεάγες,

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* something above and apart from the adviser's personal interests, and looking only to what is best.

## THEAGES

soc. Well, you know, Demodocus, they do say that advice is a holy thing.<sup>1</sup> And so, if ever it is to be accounted holy, it must be in this instance, in which you now seek it. For there is no more divine matter on which a mortal could take counsel than the education either of himself or of his relations. Now, first of all, let you and me come to an agreement as to what we suppose that this thing can be, on which we are taking counsel; for it may happen that I conceive it to be one thing, and you another, and then when we have proceeded some little way in our conference, we may perceive how ridiculous we are, I the adviser and you the advised, in having no common ground in our notions.

DEM. Why, I think you are right there, Socrates, and we should do as you suggest.

soc. Yes, I am right, but yet not entirely, because I have a slight change to make. For it occurs to me that this youngster may not be desiring the thing that we suppose him to desire, but something else, and there again we may be still more absurdly taking counsel on some other thing. Hence our properest course, it seems to me, is to begin with the youth himself, and inquire of him what it actually is that he desires.

DEM. It does rather look, in fact, as though our best way would be thus, as you suggest.

soc. Then tell me, what is the young person's goodly name: how are we to address him?

DEM. Theages is his name, Socrates.

soc. Goodly is the name, Demodocus, and holy-sounding,<sup>2</sup> that you have bestowed on your son. Tell me, then, Theages, do you say you desire to become

<sup>2</sup> "Theages" means "god-guided."

ἐπιθυμῆν φῆς σοφὸς γενέσθαι, καὶ ἀξιοῖς σου τὸν πατέρα τόνδε ἐξευρεῖν ἀνδρὸς τινος συνουσίαν τοιούτου, ὅστις σε σοφὸν ποιήσει;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Σοφοὺς δὲ καλεῖς πότερον τοὺς ἐπιστήμονας, περὶ ὅτου ἂν ἐπιστήμονες ὦσιν, ἢ τοὺς μή;

ΘΕ. Τοὺς ἐπιστήμονας ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; οὐκ ἐδιδάξατό σε ὁ πατήρ καὶ ἐπαίδευσεν ἄπερ ἐνθάδε οἱ ἄλλοι πεπαίδευνται, οἱ τῶν καλῶν καγαθῶν πατέρων υἱεῖς, οἷον γράμματά τε καὶ κιθαρίζειν καὶ παλαίειν καὶ τὴν ἄλλην ἀγωνίαν;

123 ΘΕ. Ἐμέ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἔτι οὖν οἶει τινὸς ἐπιστήμης ἐλλείπειν, ἧς προσήκει ὑπὲρ σοῦ τὸν πατέρα ἐπιμεληθῆναι;

ΘΕ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Τίς ἐστὶν αὕτη; εἶπέ καὶ ἡμῖν, ἵνα σοι χαρισώμεθα.

ΘΕ. Οἶδε καὶ οὗτος, ὦ Σώκρατες· ἐπεὶ πολλάκις ἐγὼ αὐτῷ εἶρηκα· ἀλλὰ ταῦτα ἐξεπίτηδες πρὸς σέ λέγει, ὡς δὴ οὐκ εἰδὼς οὐδ' ἐγὼ ἐπιθυμῶ. τοιαῦτα γὰρ ἕτερα καὶ πρὸς ἐμὲ μάχεται τε καὶ οὐκ ἐθέλει με οὐδενὶ συστήσαι.

Β ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν ἔμπροσθέν σοι ἦν πρὸς τοῦτον ῥηθέντα ὡσπερ ἄνευ μαρτύρων λεγόμενα· νυνὶ δὲ ἐμὲ ποιῆσαι μάρτυρα, καὶ ἐναντίον ἐμοῦ κάτειπε, τίς ἐστὶν αὕτη ἢ σοφία ἧς ἐπιθυμεῖς. φέρε γάρ, εἰ ἐπεθύμεις ταύτης, ἢ οἱ ἄνθρωποι τὰ πλοῖα κυβερνῶσι, καὶ ἐγὼ σε ἐτύγχανον ἀνερωτῶν· ὦ Θέαγες, τίνος ἐνδεῆς ὦν σοφίας μέμφη τῷ πατρί, ὅτι οὐκ ἐθέλει σε συνιστάναι παρ' ὧν ἂν σὺ σοφὸς



## THEAGES

wise, and do you require your father here to find out a school of some man who is qualified to make you wise ?

THE. Yes.

soc. And which sort of man do you call wise, those who have knowledge of such and such a thing, whatever it may be, or those who have not ?

THE. Those who have knowledge, I say.

soc. Well now, has not your father taught and educated you in the subjects which form the education of everyone else here—all the sons of noble and honourable fathers—in letters, I mean, and harping and wrestling and the other sorts of contest ?

THE. Yes, he has.

soc. And you think you are still lacking in some knowledge which it behoves your father to provide for you ?

THE. I do.

soc. What knowledge is it ? Tell us on our side, that we may oblige you.

THE. He knows it, as well as I, Socrates, since I have often told him ; only he says this to you of set purpose, making as if he did not know what I desire. For he assails me too with other statements of the same sort, and refuses to place me with any instructor.

soc. Well, what you said to him before was spoken, as it were, without witnesses ; but now you shall take me as a witness, and declare before me what is this wisdom that you desire. Come now ; suppose you desired the wisdom whereby men steer a ship, and I happened to put this further question to you : Theages, what wisdom is it that you lack, when you blame your father for refusing to place you with people who would enable you to become wise ?

PLATO

γένοιο; τί ἄν μοι ἀπεκρίνω; τίνα αὐτὴν εἶναι;  
ἄρ' οὐ κυβερνητικὴν;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

C ΣΩ. Εἰ δὲ ἐπιθυμῶν ταύτην τὴν σοφίαν εἶναι σο-  
φός, ἢ τὰ ἄρματα κυβερνῶσιν, εἴτ' ἐμέμφου τῷ  
πατρί, ἐμοῦ αὖ ἐρωτῶντος τίς ἐστὶν αὕτη ἢ σοφία,  
τίν' ἄν ἀπεκρίνω αὐτὴν εἶναι; ἄρ' οὐχὶ ἡνιοχικὴν;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐἴς δὲ δὴ νῦν τυγχάνεις ἐπιθυμῶν, πότερον  
ἀνώνυμός τίς ἐστὶν ἢ ἔχει ὄνομα;

ΘΕ. Οἶμαι ἔγωγε ἔχειν.

ΣΩ. Πότερον οὖν αὐτὴν μὲν οἶσθα, οὐ μέντοι  
τό γε ὄνομα, ἢ καὶ τὸ ὄνομα;

ΘΕ. Καὶ τὸ ὄνομα ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν ἐστὶν; εἰπέ.

D ΘΕ. Τί δὲ ἄλλο, ὦ Σώκρατες, αὐτῇ ὀνομά τις  
φαίη ἄν εἶναι ἄλλ' ἢ σοφίαν;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἡ ἡνιοχεία σοφία ἐστίν; ἢ ἀμαθία  
δοκεῖ σοι εἶναι;

ΘΕ. Οὐκ ἔμοιγε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ σοφία;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐἴ τί χρώμεθα; οὐχ ἢ ἵππων ἐπιστάμεθα  
ζεύγους ἄρχειν;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἡ κυβερνητικὴ σοφία ἐστίν;

ΘΕ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ἐἴ οὐχ αὕτη, ἢ πλοίων ἐπιστάμεθα ἄρχειν;

ΘΕ. Αὕτη μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Ἐἴς δὲ δὴ σὺ ἐπιθυμεῖς, ἢ σοφία τίς ἐστὶν;

E ἢ τίς ἐπιστάμεθα ἄρχειν;

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What answer would you have given me? What wisdom would you name? The steersman's art, would you not?

THE. Yes.

soc. And if a desire to be wise in the wisdom whereby they steer chariots led you to blame your father, and I asked what wisdom this was, what would you name in reply? The charioteer's art, would you not?

THE. Yes.

soc. And is that which you happen to be desiring now a nameless one, or has it a name?

THE. I should say it has a name.

soc. Now do you know *it*, though not its name, or do you know its name as well?

THE. I know its name as well.

soc. Then what is it? Tell me.

THE. What other name, Socrates, can one give it but wisdom?

soc. And the driver's art too is wisdom? Or do you think it is ignorance?

THE. I do not.

soc. You call it wisdom?

THE. Yes.

soc. What use do we make of it? Is it not the art whereby we know how to govern a team of horses?

THE. Yes.

soc. And the steersman's art too is wisdom?

THE. I think so.

soc. Is not this the art whereby we know how to govern ships?

THE. Yes, it is.

soc. And the wisdom that you so desire, what is it? That whereby we know how to govern whom?

PLATO

ΘΕ. Ἐμοὶ μὲν δοκεῖ, ἥ τῶν ἀνθρώπων.

ΣΩ. Μῶν ἥ τῶν καμνόντων;

ΘΕ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἰατρικὴ γὰρ αὕτη ἐστίν. ἥ γάρ;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἥ τῶν ἀδόντων ἐπιστάμεθα ἐν τοῖς χοροῖς ἄρχειν;

ΘΕ. Οὐ.

ΣΩ. Μουσικὴ γὰρ αὕτη γε;

ΘΕ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἥ τῶν γυμναζομένων ἐπιστάμεθα ἄρχειν;

ΘΕ. Οὐ.

ΣΩ. Γυμναστικὴ γὰρ αὕτη γε;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἥ τῶν τί ποιούντων; προθυμοῦ εἰπεῖν, ὥσπερ ἐγὼ σοὶ τὰ ἔμπροσθεν.

124 ΘΕ. Ἦ τῶν ἐν τῇ πόλει, ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἐν τῇ πόλει εἰσὶ καὶ οἱ κάμνοντες;

ΘΕ. Ναί, ἀλλ' οὐ τούτων λέγω μόνον, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων τῶν ἐν τῇ πόλει.

ΣΩ. Ἄρά γε μανθάνω ἦν λέγεις τέχνην; δοκεῖς γάρ μοι λέγειν οὐχ ἥ τῶν θεριζόντων ἐπιστάμεθα ἄρχειν καὶ τρυγόντων καὶ τῶν φυτευόντων καὶ σπειρόντων καὶ ἀλοώντων· αὕτη μὲν γὰρ γεωργικὴ ἥ τούτων ἄρχομεν· ἥ γάρ;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

Β ΣΩ. Οὐδέ γε οἶμαι ἥ τῶν πριζόντων καὶ τρυπώντων καὶ ξεόντων καὶ τορνευόντων συμπάντων ἐπιστάμεθα ἄρχειν, οὐ ταύτην λέγεις· αὕτη γὰρ οὐ τεκτονικὴ;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

## THEAGES

THE. To govern men, I imagine.

SOC. Sick men, do you mean ?

THE. Oh, no.

SOC. For that is medicine, is it not ?

THE. Yes.

SOC. Well, that whereby we know how to govern the singers in a chorus ?

THE. No.

SOC. For that is music ?

THE. To be sure.

SOC. Well, that whereby we know how to govern men in gymnastic training ?

THE. No.

SOC. For that is gymnastics ?

THE. Yes.

SOC. Well, to govern people who do what ? Endeavour your best to speak, as I did to you at the beginning.

THE. To govern the people in the city, I imagine.

SOC. And are the sick people also in the city ?

THE. Yes, but I mean not these only, but all the rest who are in the city besides.

SOC. Do I understand what art it is that you mean ? For you strike me as meaning, not that whereby we know how to govern reapers and harvesters and planters and sowers and threshers, for it is the farmer's art whereby we govern these, is it not ?

THE. Yes.

SOC. Nor, I suppose, do you mean that whereby we know how to govern sawyers and borers and planers and turners, as a class together ; for is not that carpentry ?

THE. Yes.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' ἴσως ἢ τούτων τε πάντων καὶ αὐτῶν τῶν γεωργῶν καὶ τῶν τεκτόνων καὶ τῶν δημιουργῶν ἀπάντων καὶ τῶν ἰδιωτῶν καὶ τῶν γυναικῶν καὶ ἀνδρῶν, ταύτην ἴσως λέγεις τὴν σοφίαν.

ΘΕ. Ταύτην πάσαι, ὦ Σώκρατες, βούλομαι λέγειν.

C ΣΩ. Ἐχεις οὖν εἰπεῖν, Αἴγισθος ὁ Ἀγαμέμνονα ἀποκτείνας ἐν Ἀργεὶ ἄρα τούτων ἦρχεν ὧν σὺ λέγεις, τῶν τε δημιουργῶν καὶ ἰδιωτῶν καὶ ἀνδρῶν καὶ γυναικῶν συμπάντων, ἢ ἄλλων τινῶν;

ΘΕ. Οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τούτων.

ΣΩ. Τί δὲ δῆ; Πηλεὺς ὁ Αἰακοῦ ἐν Φθίᾳ οὐ τῶν αὐτῶν τούτων ἦρχεν;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Περίανδρον δὲ τὸν Κυψέλου ἄρχοντα ἐν Κορίνθῳ ἤδη ἀκήκοας γενέσθαι;

ΘΕ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Οὐ τῶν αὐτῶν τούτων ἄρχοντα ἐν τῇ αὐτοῦ πόλει;

D ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; Ἀρχέλαον τὸν Περδίκκου, τὸν νεωστὶ ἄρχοντα ἐν Μακεδονίᾳ, οὐ τῶν αὐτῶν ἡγῆ τούτων ἄρχει;

ΘΕ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ἴππίαν δὲ τὸν Πεισιστράτου ἐν τῇδε τῇ πόλει ἄρξαντα τίνων οἶει ἄρξαι; οὐ τούτων;

ΘΕ. Πῶς γὰρ οὔ;

ΣΩ. Εἴποις ἂν οὖν μοι τίνα ἐπωνυμίαν ἔχει Βάκισ τε καὶ Σίβυλλα καὶ ὁ ἡμεδαπὸς Ἀμφίλυτος;

<sup>1</sup> In Aristophanes and Plato we find mention of only one "Sibyl": later the name, like Bacis (an old Boeotian  
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soc. But perhaps it is that whereby we govern, not only all these, but farmers themselves also, and carpenters, and all craftsmen and ordinary people, whether men or women: that, perhaps, is the wisdom you mean.

THE. That, Socrates, is what I have been intending to mean all the time.

soc. Then can you tell me whether Aegisthus, who slew Agamemnon in Argos, governed all these people that you mean—craftsmen and ordinary people, both men and women, or some other persons?

THE. No, just those.

soc. Well now, did not Peleus, son of Aeacus, govern these same people in Phthia?

THE. Yes.

soc. And have you ever heard of Periander, son of Cypselus, and how he governed at Corinth?

THE. I have.

soc. Did he not govern these same people in his city?

THE. Yes.

soc. Or again, do you not consider that Archelaus, son of Perdiccas, who governed recently in Macedonia, governed these same people?

THE. I do.

soc. And who do you think were governed by Hippias, son of Peisistratus, who governed in this city? Were they not these people?

THE. To be sure they were.

soc. Now, can you tell me what appellation is given to Bacis and Sibyl and our native Amphilytus?<sup>1</sup>

prophet), was applied to several oracular persons in different places. Amphilytus seems to have come from Acarnania to Athens in the time of Peisistratus.

ΘΕ. Τίνα γὰρ ἄλλην, ὦ Σώκρατες, πλήν γε χρησμοῦδοί;

Ε ΣΩ. Ὅρθως λέγεις. ἀλλὰ καὶ τούσδε μοι οὔτω πειρώ ἀποκρίνασθαι, τίν' ἐπωνυμίαν ἔχει Ἴππίας καὶ Περίανδρος διὰ τὴν αὐτῶν<sup>1</sup> ἀρχήν;

ΘΕ. Οἶμαι μὲν τύραννοι· τί γὰρ ἄλλο;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὅστις ἐπιθυμεῖ τῶν ἀνθρώπων τῶν ἐν τῇ πόλει συμπάντων ἀρχεῖν, τῆς αὐτῆς ἀρχῆς τούτοις ἐπιθυμεῖ, τυραννικῆς, καὶ τύραννος εἶναι;

ΘΕ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ταύτης ἐπιθυμεῖν σὺ φῆς;

ΘΕ. Ἐοικέ γε ἐξ ὧν ἐγὼ εἶπον.

125 ΣΩ. ὦ μιανέ, τυραννεῖν ἄρα ἡμῶν ἐπιθυμῶν πάλαι ἐμέμφου τῷ πατρί, ὅτι σε οὐκ ἔπεμπεν εἰς [διδασκάλου]<sup>2</sup> τυραννοδιδασκάλου τινός; καὶ σύ, ὦ Δημόδοκε, οὐκ αἰσχύνῃ πάλαι εἰδὼς οὐ ἐπιθυμεῖ οὗτος, καὶ ἔχων ὅθι πέμψας αὐτὸν δημιουργὸν ἂν ἐποίησας τῆς σοφίας ἧς ἐπιθυμεῖ, ἔπειτα φθονεῖς τε αὐτῷ καὶ οὐκ ἐθέλεις πέμπειν; ἀλλὰ νῦν, ὄρῃς; ἐπειδὴ ἐναντίον ἐμοῦ κατείρηκέ σου, κοινῇ βουλευόμεθα ἐγὼ σε καὶ σύ, ἐς τίνος<sup>3</sup> ἂν αὐτὸν πέμπομεν καὶ διὰ τὴν τίνος συνουσίαν σοφὸς ἂν γένοιτο τύραννος;

Β ΔΗ. Ναὶ μὰ Δία, ὦ Σώκρατες, βουλευόμεθα δῆτα, ὡς δοκεῖ γέ μοι βουλής δεῖν περὶ τούτου οὐ φαύλης.

ΣΩ. Ἐασον, ὦ ἄγαθέ. διαπυθώμεθα αὐτοῦ πρώτον ἱκανῶς.

ΔΗ. Πυνθάνου δή.



## THEAGES

THE. Why, soothsayers, of course, Socrates.

soc. That is correct. But try to answer me in that way regarding those others—Hippias and Periander: what appellation is given them on account of their government?

THE. Despots, I suppose; it must be that.

soc. And when a man desires to govern the whole of the people in his city, he desires the same government as those did—despotism, and to be a despot?

THE. Apparently.

soc. And it is this that you say you desire?

THE. It seems so, from what I have said.

soc. You scoundrel! So you were desiring to govern us, all the time that you were blaming your father for not sending you to some seminary of despots! And you, Demodocus, are you not ashamed of having known all the time what he is desiring, and though you could have sent him where you would have made him an expert in the wisdom which he desires, actually grudging it to him and refusing to send him? But now, look here, as he has declared against you in my presence, shall you and I consult together on the question of whose school we shall send him to, and whose classes will help him to become a wise despot?

DEM. Yes, in faith, Socrates, let us certainly consult, as I feel this is a matter on which no slight counsel is needed.

soc. By and by, my good sir. Let us first cross-examine him thoroughly.

DEM. Examine him then.

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<sup>1</sup> αὐτῶν Baiter: αὐτήν MSS.

<sup>2</sup> διδασκάλου secl. Schleiermacher.

<sup>3</sup> ἐς τίνας Bekker (ἐς τίνα corr. Coisl.): ἐστὶν οἱ, ἔστιν οἱ MSS.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν ἄν, εἰ Εὐριπίδῃ τι προσχρησαίμεθα,  
ὦ Θέαγες; Εὐριπίδης γάρ πού φησι

σοφοὶ τύραννοι τῶν σοφῶν συνουσία·

εἰ οὖν ἔροίτο τις τὸν Εὐριπίδην· ὦ Εὐριπίδη, τῶν τί  
C σοφῶν συνουσία φῆς σοφοὺς εἶναι τοὺς τυράννους;  
ὥσπερ ἂν εἰ εἰπόντα

σοφοὶ γεωργοὶ τῶν σοφῶν συνουσία,

ἠρόμεθα τῶν τί σοφῶν, τί ἂν ἡμῖν ἀπεκρίνατο; ἄρ'  
ἂν ἄλλο τι ἢ τῶν τὰ γεωργικά;

ΘΕ. Οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τοῦτο.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; εἰ εἶπε

σοφοὶ μάγειροι τῶν σοφῶν συνουσία,

εἰ ἠρόμεθα τῶν τί σοφῶν, τί ἂν ἡμῖν ἀπεκρίνατο;  
οὐχ ὅτι τῶν τὰ μαγειρικά<sup>1</sup>;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τί δ', εἰ

σοφοὶ παλαισταὶ τῶν σοφῶν συνουσία

εἶπεν, εἰ ἠρόμεθα τῶν τί σοφῶν, ἄρ' οὐκ ἂν τῶν  
D παλαίειν ἔφη;

ΘΕ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐπειδὴ δὲ εἶπε

σοφοὶ τύραννοι τῶν σοφῶν συνουσία,

ἡμῶν ἐρωτώντων, τῶν τί σοφῶν λέγεις, ὦ Εὐριπίδη;  
τί ἂν φαίῃ; ποῖα ἂν εἶναι ταῦτα;

ΘΕ. Ἄλλὰ μὰ Δί' οὐκ οἶδ' ἔγωγε.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ βούλει ἐγώ σοι εἶπω;

<sup>1</sup> τῶν τὰ μαγειρικά Hirschig: τῶν μαγείρων, τῶν μαγειρικῶν  
MSS.

## THEAGES

soc. Well now, what if we called in Euripides to our aid, Theages? For you know Euripides says:

Despots are wise by converse with the wise.<sup>1</sup>

Now, if someone should ask Euripides: Euripides, in what are these men wise, by whose converse you say that despots are wise? I mean, suppose he had said:

Farmers are wise by converse with the wise, and we had asked him,—Wise in what?—what answer would he have given us? Surely none other than,—In farming.

THE. That, and none other.

soc. Or again, if he had said:

Piemen are wise by converse with the wise, and we had asked him,—Wise in what?—what answer would he have given us? He would have said,—In the pie-making business,—would he not?

THE. Yes.

soc. Or again, if he had said:

Wrestlers are wise by converse with the wise, and we had asked him,—Wise in what?—would he not reply,—In wrestling?

THE. Yes.

soc. But as he said:

Despots are wise by converse with the wise, and we ask him,—In what do you mean that the latter are wise, Euripides?—what will he reply? What sort of subjects will he mention here?

THE. Why, upon my word, I for my part do not know.

soc. Well, do you mind if I tell you?

*Republic* (568 A), appears to belong really to Sophocles' lost tragedy *The Locrian Ajax*.

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ΘΕ. Εἰ σὺ βούλει,

ΣΩ. Ταῦτ' ἐστὶν ἄπερ ἔφη Ἀνακρέων τὴν Καλλι-  
κρίτην ἐπίστασθαι ἢ οὐκ οἶσθα τὸ ἄσμα;

ΘΕ. Ἐγώ γε.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; τοιαύτης τινὸς καὶ σὺ συνουσίας  
Ε ἐπιθυμεῖς ἀνδρός, ὅστις τυγχάνει ὁμότεχνος ὢν  
Καλλικρίτη τῇ Κυάνης καὶ ἐπίσταται τυραννικά,  
ὥσπερ ἐκείνην ἔφη ὁ ποιητής, ἵνα καὶ σὺ ἡμῖν  
τύραννος γένη καὶ τῇ πόλει;

ΘΕ. Πάλαι, ὦ Σώκρατες, σκώπτεις καὶ παίζεις  
πρὸς με.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; οὐ ταύτης φῆς τῆς σοφίας ἐπι-  
θυμεῖν, ἢ πάντων ἂν τῶν πολιτῶν ἄρχοις; τοῦτο  
δὲ ποιῶν ἄλλο τι ἢ τύραννος ἂν εἴης;

ΘΕ. Εὐξαιίμην μὲν ἄν, οἶμαι, ἔγωγε τύραννος  
126 γενέσθαι, μάλιστα μὲν πάντων ἀνθρώπων, εἰ δὲ μή,  
ὡς πλείστων· καὶ σύ γ' ἄν, οἶμαί, καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι  
πάντες ἀνθρωποι· ἔτι δέ γε ἴσως μᾶλλον θεὸς  
γενέσθαι· ἀλλ' οὐ τούτου ἔλεγον ἐπιθυμεῖν.

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ τί δή ἐστὶ ποτε οὗ ἐπιθυμεῖς; οὐ  
τῶν πολιτῶν φῆς ἄρχειν ἐπιθυμεῖν;

ΘΕ. Οὐ βία γε οὐδ' ὥσπερ οἱ τύραννοι, ἀλλ' ἐκόν-  
των, ὥσπερ καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι οἱ ἐν τῇ πόλει ἐλλόγιμοι  
ἄνδρες.

ΣΩ. Ἄρά γε λέγεις ὥσπερ Θεμιστοκλῆς καὶ  
Περικλῆς καὶ Κίμων καὶ ὅσοι τὰ πολιτικὰ δεινοὶ  
γεγόνασιν;

ΘΕ. Νῆ Δία τούτους λέγω.

Β ΣΩ. Τί οὖν εἰ τὰ ἵππικὰ ἐτύγχανες ἐπιθυμῶν  
σοφὸς γενέσθαι; παρὰ τίνας ἂν ἀφικόμενος ὤηθης

<sup>1</sup> Nothing is known of this poem.

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THE. If you do not mind.

soc. They are the same subjects that Anacreon said Callicrite understood ; or do you not know the ode ? <sup>1</sup>

THE. I do.

soc. Well then, do you desire to partake in some instruction of that sort from any man who is a fellow-craftsman of Callicrite, daughter of Cyane, and knows all about despotism as she did, according to the poet, in order that you may become a despot over us and our city ?

THE. You are joking all this time, Socrates, and making fun of me.

soc. Why, do you not say that you desire that wisdom which will enable you to govern all the citizens ? And in doing that, will you be anything else but a despot ?

THE. I should indeed pray, I imagine, that I might become a despot, if possible, over all men, and failing that, over as many as might be ; so would you, I imagine, and everybody else besides : nay, even more, I daresay, that I might become a god ; but I did not say I desired that.

soc. Well, what on earth then is it that you do desire ? Do you not say you desire to govern the citizens ?

THE. Yes, but not by force, or as despots do, but with their consent, as is done by all the other men of importance in the state.

soc. Do you mean, as by Themistocles and Pericles and Cimon, and by all those who have shown themselves able statesmen ?

THE. Yes, in good earnest, I mean those people.

soc. Then what if you chanced to desire to become wise in horsemanship ? To whom would you have

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δεινὸς ἔσεσθαι ἵππεύς; ἢ παρ' ἄλλους τινὰς ἢ τοὺς ἵππικούς;

ΘΕ. Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

ΣΘ. Ἀλλὰ παρ' αὐτοὺς αὐ τοὺς δεινοὺς ὄντας ταῦτα, καὶ οἷς εἰσὶ τε ἵπποι καὶ χρώνται ἐκάστοτε καὶ οἰκείοις καὶ ἀλλοτρίοις πολλοῖς;

ΘΕ. Δῆλον ὅτι.

ΣΘ. Τί δὲ εἰ τὰ ἀκοντιστικὰ σοφὸς ἐβούλου γενέσθαι; οὐ παρὰ τοὺς ἀκοντιστικούς ὦν ἂν ἐλθὼν σοφὸς ἔσεσθαι τούτους, οἷς ἔστι τε ἀκόντια  
C καὶ πολλοῖς καὶ ἀλλοτρίοις καὶ οἰκείοις ἐκάστοτε χρώνται ἀκοντίοις;

ΘΕ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΘ. Λέγε δὴ μοι· ἐπεὶ δὲ δὴ τὰ πολιτικὰ βούλει σοφὸς γενέσθαι, οἷοι παρ' ἄλλους τινὰς ἀφικόμενος σοφὸς ἔσεσθαι ἢ τοὺς πολιτικούς τούτους, τοὺς αὐτούς τε δεινοὺς ὄντας τὰ πολιτικὰ καὶ χρωμένους ἐκάστοτε τῇ τε αὐτῶν πόλει καὶ ἄλλαις πολλαῖς, καὶ Ἑλληνίσι προσομιλοῦντας πόλεσι καὶ βαρβάροις; ἢ δοκεῖς ἄλλοις τισὶ συγγενόμενος σοφὸς ἔσεσθαι ταῦτα, ἅπερ οὗτοι, ἀλλ' οὐκ αὐτοῖς τούτοις;

D ΘΕ. Ἀκήκοα γάρ, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὓς σέ φασι λέγειν τοὺς λόγους, ὅτι τούτων τῶν πολιτικῶν ἀνδρῶν οἱ υἱεῖς οὐδὲν βελτίους εἰσὶν ἢ οἱ τῶν σκυτοτόμων· καὶ μοι δοκεῖς ἀληθέστατα λέγειν ἐξ ὧν ἐγὼ δύναμαι αἰσθέσθαι. ἀνόητος ἂν οὖν εἶην, εἰ οἰοίμην τινὰ τούτων ἐμοὶ μὲν ἂν παραδοῦναι τὴν αὐτοῦ σοφίαν, τὸν δὲ υἱὸν τὸν αὐτοῦ μηδὲν ὠφελῆσαι, εἴ τι οἷός τ' ἦν εἰς ταῦτα ὠφελεῖν ἄλλον ὄντιναοῦν ἀνθρώπων.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Alcib. I.* 118 E; *Protag.* 320 A, B.

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had to resort before expecting to be a clever horse-man? To whom else but the horse-masters?

THE. To none else, I am sure.

soc. And moreover, you would go to the actual men who are clever at the business, and who have horses and constantly use them in great numbers, both their own and other people's?

THE. Obviously I should.

soc. And what if you wished to become wise in javelin-throwing? Would you not expect to get this wisdom by having resorted to those javelin-masters who have javelins and who constantly use javelins, both other people's and their own, in great numbers?

THE. I think so.

soc. Then pray tell me, since it is your wish to become wise in state-matters, do you expect to get your wisdom by resorting to any other persons than those statesmen, who not only have their own ability in state-matters, but have constant dealings with other cities besides their own, by their intercourse alike with Greek cities and with foreign peoples? Or do you think to get wisdom in their business by resorting to any other persons than these particular men?

THE. Well, Socrates, I have heard of the argument that you are said to put forward—that the sons of those statesmen are no better men than the sons of shoemakers<sup>1</sup>; and in my opinion your words are very true, from what I am able to gather. Hence I should be an utter fool if I supposed that any of these men would impart his wisdom to me when he never was of any use to his own son, as he would have been, if he were able to be of use in this matter to anyone at all in the world.

ζη. Τί οὖν ἄν, ὦ βέλτιστε ἀνδρῶν, χρήσαι  
 σαυτῷ, εἴ σοι ἐπειδὴ γένοιτο υἱὸς τοιαῦτα πράγ-  
 Ε ματα παρέχοι, καὶ φαίη μὲν ἄν ἐπιθυμεῖν ἀγαθὸς  
 γενέσθαι ζωγράφος, καὶ μέμφοιτο σοὶ τῷ πατρί,  
 ὅτι οὐκ ἐθέλεις ἀναλίσκειν εἰς αὐτὸν τούτων αὐτῶν  
 ἔνεκα ἀργύριον, τοὺς δὲ δημιουργοὺς αὐτοῦ τούτου,  
 τοὺς ζωγράφους, ἀτιμάζοι τε καὶ μὴ βούλοιτο  
 παρ' αὐτῶν μαθάνειν; ἢ τοὺς αὐλητάς, βου-  
 λόμενος αὐλητῆς γενέσθαι, ἢ τοὺς κιθαριστάς;  
 ἔχοις ἄν αὐτῷ ὅ τι χρῶο καὶ ὅποι πέμποις ἄλλοσε  
 μὴ ἐθέλοντα παρὰ τούτων μαθάνειν;

ΘΕ. Μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.

127 ζη. Νῦν οὖν ταῦτὰ ταῦτα αὐτὸς πρὸς τὸν  
 πατέρα ποιῶν θαυμάζεις καὶ μέμφη εἰ ἀπορεῖ ὃ τί  
 σοι χρήσεται καὶ ὅποι πέμπη<sup>1</sup>; ἐπεὶ Ἀθηναίων  
 γε τῶν καλῶν καγαθῶν τὰ πολιτικὰ ὅτω ἄν  
 βούλη συστήσομέν σε, ὅς σοι προῖκα συνέσται·  
 καὶ ἅμα μὲν ἀργύριον οὐκ ἀναλώσεις, ἅμα δὲ πολὺ  
 μᾶλλον εὐδοκιμήσεις παρὰ τοῖς πολλοῖς ἀνθρώποις  
 ἢ ἄλλω τῷ συνών.

ΘΕ. Τί οὖν, ὦ Σώκρατες; οὐ καὶ σὺ τῶν καλῶν  
 καγαθῶν εἰ ἀνδρῶν; εἰ γὰρ σύ μοι ἐθέλοις συν-  
 εῖναι, ἐξαρκεῖ καὶ οὐδένα ἄλλον ζητῶ.

Β ζη. Τί τοῦτο λέγεις, Θέαγες;

ΔΗ. ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐ μέντοι κακῶς λέγει, καὶ  
 ἅμα μὲν ἐμοὶ χαριῆ· ὡς ἐγὼ οὐκ ἔσθ' ὃ τι τούτου  
 μείζον ἄν ἔρμαιον ἠγησαίμην, ἢ εἰ οὗτός τε ἀρέ-  
 σκοιτο τῇ σῆ συνουσία καὶ σὺ ἐθέλοις τούτῳ συν-  
 εῖναι. καὶ μέντοι καὶ αἰσχύνομαι λέγειν ὡς σφόδρα

<sup>1</sup> πέμπη Bekker: πέμποι MSS.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. the passage in the *Protagoras* (320 A, B) which shows that young men of good family were often placed with older



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soc. Then which way, most excellent sir, would you turn if, when you came to have a son, he should trouble you in the same manner, and tell you he desired to become a good painter, and should blame you, his father, for refusing to spend money on him for that very purpose, but at the same time should disregard the practitioners of that very thing, the painters, and decline to learn from them? Or the flute-players, when he wished to become a flute-player, or the harp-players? Would you know what to do with him, and where else you should send him if he refused to learn from these?

THE. Upon my word, I should not.

soc. And do you now, when you are behaving in just the same way to your father, feel surprised and blame him for being at a loss what to do with you and where to send you? Why, we are ready to place you with any well-bred Athenian statesman you may choose, who will train you free of charge<sup>1</sup>; and so not only will you be at no expense of money, but will gain far greater commendation amongst the mass of men than if you studied with anyone else.

THE. But then, Socrates, are not you too one of our well-bred gentlemen? Indeed, if you will agree to instruct me, I am content and seek no other.

soc. What do you mean by that, Theages?

DEM. Nay, Socrates, there is nothing amiss in what he says, and you will oblige me at the same time; for I should count it the greatest possible stroke of luck if he should welcome your instruction and you also should consent to instruct him. Nay, indeed, I am quite ashamed to say how keenly I wish

friends of standing and experience in order to prepare for public life. Cf. also *Meno* 94 D.

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βούλομαι· ἄλλ' ἐγὼ ἀμφοτέρων ὑμῶν δέομαι, σέ τ' ἐθέλειν τούτῳ συνεῖναι καὶ σέ μὴ ζητεῖν ἄλλῳ μηδενὶ συγγενέσθαι ἢ Σωκράτει· καὶ με πολλῶν  
 C καὶ φοβερῶν ἀπαλλάξετε φροντίδων. ὡς νῦν πάνυ φοβοῦμαι ὑπὲρ τούτου, μὴ τινι ἄλλῳ ἐντύχῃ οἴῳ τούτον διαφθεῖραι.

ΘΕ. Μηκέτι νῦν, ὦ πάτερ, ὑπὲρ γ' ἐμοῦ φοβοῦ, εἴπερ οἴός τ' εἶ πείσαι τούτον τὴν ἐμὴν συνουσίαν προσδέξασθαι.

ΔΗ. Πάνυ καλῶς λέγεις. ὦ Σώκρατες, πρὸς σέ δ' ἂν ἤδη εἶη ὁ μετὰ τοῦτο λόγος· ἐγὼ γάρ σοι ἔτοιμός εἰμι, ὡς διὰ βραχέων εἰπεῖν, καὶ ἐμέ καὶ τὰ ἐμὰ ὡς οἴόν τε οἰκειότατα παρέχειν, ὅτου ἂν  
 D δέη, ἔμβραχυ, ἐὰν Θεάγῃ τουτονὶ ἀσπάζῃ τε καὶ εὐεργετῆς ὅ τι ἂν οἴός τε ᾔῃς.

ΣΩ. ὦ Δημόδοκε, τὸ μὲν ἐσπουδακέναι σε οὐ θαυμάζω, εἴπερ οἶει ὑπ' ἐμοῦ μάλιστ' ἂν σοι τούτον ὠφελῆσθαι· οὐ γὰρ οἶδα ὑπὲρ ὅτου ἂν τις νοῦν ἔχων μᾶλλον σπουδάξοι ἢ ὑπὲρ υἱέος αὐτοῦ, ὅπως ὡς βέλτιστος ἔσται· ὁπόθεν δὲ ἔδοξέ σοι τούτο, ὡς ἐγὼ ἂν μᾶλλον τὸν σὸν υἱὸν οἴός τ' εἶην<sup>1</sup> ὠφελῆσαι πρὸς τὸ πολίτην ἀγαθὸν γενέσθαι ἢ σὺ αὐτός, καὶ ὁπόθεν οὗτος ὠήθη ἐμέ μᾶλλον ἢ σέ αὐτὸν ὠφελήσειν, τούτο πάνυ θαυμάζω. σὺ γὰρ  
 E πρῶτον μὲν πρεσβύτερος εἶ ἐμοῦ, ἔπειτα πολλὰς ἤδη ἀρχὰς καὶ τὰς μεγίστας Ἀθηναίοις ἠρξᾶς, καὶ τιμᾶ ὑπὸ Ἀναγυρασίων τε τῶν δημοτῶν πολὺ μάλιστα καὶ ὑπὸ τῆς ἄλλης πόλεως οὐδενὸς ἦπτον· ἐμοὶ δὲ τούτων οὐδὲν ἐνορᾶ οὐδέτερος ὑμῶν. ἔπειτα εἰ ἄρα τῆς μὲν τῶν πολιτικῶν ἀνδρῶν συνουσίας Θεάγῃς ὅδε καταφρονεῖ, ἄλλους

<sup>1</sup> τ' εἶην Priscianus : τέ τ' ἦν, τε ἦν mss.

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it ; but I entreat you both—you, to consent to teach Theages, and you, to seek the teaching of no one else than Socrates ; you will thus relieve me of a harassing load of anxiety. For just now I am sorely afraid of his falling in with some other person who is likely to corrupt him.

THE. Have no more fears for me now, father, so long as you are able to persuade him to receive me as his pupil.

DEM. Very rightly spoken. Socrates, from now onward we must address ourselves to you ; for I am ready, in short, to place both myself and all that I hold dearest of what is mine in your hands—whatever you may require, absolutely—if you will open your arms to Theages here, and do him any service that you can.

SOC. Demodocus, your zeal is no wonder to me, if you suppose that I especially could be of use to him ; for I know of nothing for which a sensible man could be more zealous than for his own son's utmost improvement. But how you came to form this opinion, that I would be better able to be of use to your son in his aim of becoming a good citizen than you would yourself, and how he came to suppose that I rather than yourself would be of use to him—this does fill me with wonder. For you, in the first place, are my elder, and further, you have held in your time many of the highest offices in Athens, and are respected by the people of Anagyrus<sup>1</sup> above all your fellow-townsmen, and by the whole state as much as any man, whereas neither of you can notice anything like this about me. And moreover, if Theages here does despise the instruction of our statesmen, and is look-

<sup>1</sup> A deme or township of Attica.

δέ τινας ζητεῖ, οἱ παιδεύειν ἐπαγγέλλονται οἰοί τε εἶναι νέους ἀνθρώπους, ἔστιν ἐνταῦθα καὶ Πρόδικος ὁ Κεῖος καὶ Γοργίας ὁ Λεοντῖνος καὶ Πῶλος ὁ 128 Ἀκραγαντῖνος καὶ ἄλλοι πολλοί, οἱ οὕτω σοφοί εἰσι, ὥστε εἰς τὰς πόλεις ἰόντες πείθουσι τῶν νέων τοὺς γενναιοτάτους τε καὶ πλουσιωτάτους οἷς ἔξεστι τῶν πολιτῶν ᾧ ἂν βούλωνται προῖκα συνεῖναι τούτους πείθουσιν ἀπολείποντας τὰς ἐκείνων συνουσίας αὐτοῖς συνεῖναι, προσκατατιθέντας ἀργύριον πάνυ πολὺ<sup>1</sup> μισθόν, καὶ χάριν πρὸς τούτοις εἶδέναι. τούτων τινὰς εἰκὸς ἦν προαιρεῖσθαι καὶ τὸν υἱόν σου καὶ αὐτὸν σέ, ἐμέ δ' Βοῦκ εἰκός· οὐδὲν γὰρ τούτων ἐπίσταμαι τῶν μακαρίων τε καὶ καλῶν μαθημάτων· ἐπεὶ ἐβουλόμην ἄν· ἀλλὰ καὶ λέγω δήπου αἰεὶ, ὅτι ἐγὼ τυγχάνω, ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν, οὐδὲν ἐπιστάμενος πλήν γε σμικροῦ τινὸς μαθήματος, τῶν ἐρωτικῶν. τοῦτο μέντοι τὸ μάθημα παρ' ὄντινοῦν ποιοῦμαι δεινὸς εἶναι καὶ τῶν προγεγονότων ἀνθρώπων καὶ τῶν νῦν.

ΘΕ. Ὅρας, ᾧ πάτερ; ὁ<sup>2</sup> Σωκράτης οὐ πάνυ μοι δοκεῖ ἔτι ἐθέλειν ἐμοὶ συνδιατρίβειν· ἐπεὶ τό γ' C ἐμὸν ἔτοιμον, εἰάν οὗτος ἐθέλῃ· ἀλλὰ ταῦτα παίζων πρὸς ἡμᾶς λέγει. ἐπεὶ ἐγὼ οἶδα τῶν ἐμῶν ἡλικιωτῶν καὶ ὀλίγω πρεσβυτέρων, οἱ πρὶν μὲν τούτῳ συνεῖναι οὐδενὸς ἄξιοι ἦσαν, ἐπειδὴ δὲ συνεγένοντο τούτῳ, ἐν πάνυ ὀλίγω χρόνῳ πάντων βελτίους φαίνονται ᾧν πρότερον χεῖρους.

ΣΩ. Οἶσθα οὖν οἶον τοῦτό ἐστιν, ᾧ παῖ Δημοδόκου;

ΘΕ. Ναὶ μὰ Δί' ἔγωγε, ὅτι, εἰάν σὺ βούλῃ, καὶ

<sup>1</sup> πολὺ Beck: πολὺν MSS.

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ing for some other persons who profess to be able to educate young people, we have here Prodicus of Ceos, Gorgias of Leontini, Polus of Acragas, and many more, who are so wise that they go to our cities and persuade the noblest and wealthiest of our young men—who have the choice of learning from any citizen they choose, free of charge—they persuade them to abandon that instruction and learn from them, with a deposit, besides, of a large sum of money as their fee, and to feel thankful in addition. Some of these persons might naturally have been chosen both by your son and by yourself, in preference to me ; for I have no knowledge of those fair and beatific subjects of study : I only wish that I had. But what I always say, you know, is that I am in the position of knowing practically nothing except one little subject, that of love-matters. In this subject, however, I claim to be skilled above anybody who has ever lived or is now living in the world.

THE. Do you see, father ? Socrates does not seem to me to be at all willing now to spend his time on me ; for there is readiness enough on my part, if he is willing. But he is only jesting in what he has just told us. For I know of some of my equals in age, and some a little older, who were of no account before they learnt from him, but after beginning to learn from him have in a very short time proved themselves superior to all whose inferiors they were before.

SOC. And do you know what the meaning of it is, son of Demodocus ?

THE. Yes, on my soul, I do—that, if it be your

ἐγὼ οἴός τ' ἔσομαι τοιοῦτος γενέσθαι, οἰοίπερ καὶ ἐκεῖνοι.

D ΣΩ. Οὐκ, ὦ ἴαθρέ, ἀλλὰ σε λέληθεν, οἷον τοῦτ' ἔστιν, ἐγὼ δέ σοι φράσω. ἔστι γάρ τι θεία μοῖρα παρεπόμενον ἐμοὶ ἐκ παιδὸς ἀρξάμενον δαιμόνιον· ἔστι δὲ τοῦτο φωνή, ἣ ὅταν γένηται, αἰεὶ μοι σημαίνει, ὃ ἂν μέλλω πράττειν, τούτου ἀποτροπήν, προτρέπει δὲ οὐδέποτε· καὶ εἰάν τις μοι τῶν φίλων ἀνακοινῶται καὶ γένηται ἢ φωνή, ταῦτόν τοῦτο, ἀποτρέπει καὶ οὐκ ἔῃ πράττειν. καὶ τούτων ὑμῖν μάρτυρας παρέξομαι. Χαρμίδην γὰρ τουτονὶ γινώσκετε τὸν καλὸν γενόμενον, τὸν Γλαῦκωνος·

E οὗτός ποτε ἐτύγχανεν ἐμοὶ ἀνακοινούμενος μέλλων ἀσκήσειν στάδιον εἰς Νεμέαν· καὶ εὐθύς αὐτοῦ ἀρχομένου λέγειν, ὅτι μέλλοι ἀσκεῖν, ἐγένετο ἢ φωνή, καὶ ἐγὼ διεκώλυόν τε αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπον ὅτι λέγοντός σου μεταξὺ γέγονέ μοι ἢ φωνή ἢ τοῦ δαιμονίου· ἀλλὰ μὴ ἄσκει. ἴσως, ἔφη, σημαίνει σοι, ὅτι οὐ νικήσω· ἐγὼ δὲ κἂν μὴ μέλλω νικᾶν, γυμνασάμενός γε τοῦτον τὸν χρόνον ὠφεληθήσομαι· ταῦτα εἰπὼν ἤσκει· ἄξιον οὖν πυθέσθαι αὐτοῦ, ἃ  
 129 αὐτῷ συνέβη ἀπὸ ταύτης τῆς ἀσκήσεως. εἰ δὲ βούλεσθε, τὸν Τιμάρχου ἀδελφὸν Κλειτόμαχον ἔρεσθε, τί εἶπεν αὐτῷ Τιμάρχος ἠνίκ' ἀποθανούμενος ἦει εὐθὺ τοῦ δημοσίου,<sup>1</sup> ἐκεῖνός τε καὶ Εὐάθλος ὁ σταδιοδρομῶν, ὃς Τιμάρχον ὑπεδέξατο φεύγοντα· ἐρεῖ γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι εἶπεν αὐτῷ ταῦτα.

ΘΕ. Τί;

ΣΩ. ὦ Κλειτόμαχε, ἔφη, ἐγὼ μέντοι ἔρχομαι ἀποθανούμενος νυνί, διότι Σωκράτει οὐκ ἤθελον

<sup>1</sup> δημοσίου Baier: δαιμονίου MSS.

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pleasure, I too shall be able to become such as those others are.

soc. No, good sir, the meaning of it escapes you ; but I will tell it you. There is something spiritual which, by a divine dispensation, has accompanied me from my childhood up. It is a voice that, when it occurs, always indicates to me a prohibition of something I may be about to do, but never urges me on to anything ; and if one of my friends consults me and the voice occurs, the same thing happens : it prohibits, and does not allow him to act. And I will produce witnesses to convince you of these facts. You know our Charmides here, who has grown so handsome, the son of Glaucon : he once happened to be consulting me on his intention of training for the Nemean races, and he had no sooner begun to say that he intended to train than the voice occurred, and I tried to prevent him, saying—"Just as you were speaking my spirit-voice has occurred : no, you must not train." "Perhaps," said he, "it indicates to you that I shall not win ; but even if I am not to win, at any rate the exercise I shall get in the meantime will do me good." So saying, he went and trained ; and so you may as well inquire of him as to the results he got from his training. Or if you like, ask Cleitomachus, brother of Timarchus, what Timarchus said to him when he was going straight to the prison to meet his death, he and Euathlus the racing runner, who had harboured Timarchus as a fugitive ; for he will tell you that the words he spoke to him were these :

THE. What ?

soc. "Cleitomachus," he said, "I tell you I am going to my death now, because I would not take

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πείθεσθαι. τί δὴ οὖν ποτὲ τοῦτο εἶπεν ὁ Τίμαρχος; ἐγὼ φράσω. ὅτε ἀνίστατο ἐκ τοῦ συμποσίου ὁ Β Τίμαρχος καὶ Φιλήμων ὁ Φιλημονίδου ἀποκτενοῦν-  
 τες Νικίαν τὸν Ἡροσκαμάνδρου, ἠπιστάσθην μὲν αὐτῶ μόνω τὴν ἐπιβουλήν, ὁ δὲ Τίμαρχος ἀν-  
 ιστάμενος πρὸς ἐμὲ εἶπε, τί λέγεις, ἔφη, ὦ Σώ-  
 κρατες; ὑμεῖς μὲν πίνετε, ἐμὲ δὲ δεῖ ποι ἐξανα-  
 στῆναι· ἤξω δὲ ὀλίγον ὕστερον, εἰάν τύχω. καί μοι ἐγένετο ἡ φωνή, καὶ εἶπον πρὸς αὐτόν, μηδαμῶς, ἔφη, ἀναστῆς· γέγονε γάρ μοι τὸ εἰώθος σημεῖον  
 C τὸ δαιμόνιον· καὶ ὅς ἐπέσχε. καὶ διαλιπὼν χρόνον αὔθις ὠρμάτο ἰέναι, καὶ ἔφη, εἰμι δὴ, Σώκρατες· αὔθις ἐγένετο ἡ φωνή· αὔθις οὖν αὐτόν ἠνάγκασα ἐπισχεῖν. τὸ τρίτον, βουλόμενός με λαθεῖν, ἀνέστη οὐκέτι εἰπὼν μοι οὐδέν, ἀλλὰ λαθῶν, ἐπιτηρήσας ἄλλοσε τὸν νοῦν ἔχοντα· καὶ οὕτως ὥχεται ἀπιῶν καὶ διεπράξατο ἐξ ὧν ἦει ἀποθανούμενος. ὅθεν δὴ τοῦτ' εἶπε πρὸς τὸν ἀδελφὸν ὅπερ νῦν ὑμῖν ἐγώ, ὅτι ἴοι ἀποθανούμενος διὰ τὸ ἐμοὶ ἀπιστῆσαι.  
 D ἔτι τοίνυν περὶ τῶν ἐν Σικελία πολλῶν ἀκούσεσθον, ἀ ἐγὼ ἔλεγον περὶ τῆς διαφθορᾶς τοῦ στρατοπέδου. καὶ τὰ μὲν παρεληλυθότα τῶν εἰδότων ἔστιν ἀκούσαι· πεῖραν δ' ἔξεστι νυνὶ λαβεῖν τοῦ σημεῖου, εἰ ἄρα τι λέγει. ἐπὶ γὰρ τῇ ἐπὶ στρατείαν ἐξορμῇ Σαννίωνος τοῦ καλοῦ ἐγένετό μοι τὸ σημεῖον, οἴχεται δὲ νῦν μετὰ Θρασύλλου στρατευσόμενος εὐθὺς Ἐφέσου καὶ Ἰωνίας. ἐγὼ οὖν οἶομαι ἐκεῖνον

<sup>1</sup> The disastrous Sicilian expedition of 415-413 B.C. Cf. Thuc. vi. and vii.

<sup>2</sup> 409 B.C., when Thrasyllus succeeded in recovering Colophon for Athens. He was one of the commanders put



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Socrates' advice." Now, why on earth did Timarchus say that? I will tell you. When Timarchus and Philemon, son of Philemonides, got up from the wine-party to kill Nicias, son of Heroscamandrus, those two alone had knowledge of the plot; and Timarchus, as he got up, said to me: "What say you, Socrates? Go on drinking, all of you; I have to get up and go somewhere, but I will join you a little later, if I get the chance." Then occurred that voice of mine, and I said to him: "No, no, do not get up; for my accustomed spiritual sign has occurred to me." So he stopped. Then after an interval of time he again started to go, and said: "Well, I am going, Socrates." Again the voice occurred, and so again I constrained him to stop. The third time, wishing to give me the slip, he got up without saying another word to me; he gave me the slip by watching until my attention was turned elsewhere. Thus it was that he went right off and committed the deed which was the cause of his going then to his death. And hence it was that he spoke those words to his brother which I quoted to you just now, that he was going to his death because he had not taken my advice. And moreover, in regard to the Sicilian business,<sup>1</sup> many will tell you what I said about the destruction of the army. As to by-gones, you may hear from those who know: but there is an opportunity now of testing the worth of what the sign says. For as the handsome Sannio was setting out on campaign, the sign occurred to me, and he has gone now with Thrasyllus on an expedition bound for Ephesus and Ionia.<sup>2</sup> I accord-

to death by the Athenians after the battle of Arginusae, 406 B.C.

ἢ ἀποθανεῖσθαι ἢ ὁμοῦ τι τούτῳ γ' ἐλᾶν,<sup>1</sup> καὶ  
περί γε τῆς στρατιᾶς τῆς ἄλλης πάνυ φοβοῦμαι.

Ε Ταῦτα δὴ πάντα εἴρηκά σοι, ὅτι ἡ δύναμις αὕτη  
τοῦ δαιμονίου τούτου καὶ εἰς τὰς συνουσίας τῶν  
μετ' ἐμοῦ συνδιατριβόντων τὸ ἅπαν δύναται.  
πολλοῖς μὲν γὰρ ἐναντιοῦται, καὶ οὐκ ἔστι τούτοις  
ὠφεληθῆναι μετ' ἐμοῦ διατρίβουσιν, ὥστε οὐχ οἷόν  
τέ μοι τούτοις συνδιατρίβειν· πολλοῖς δὲ συνεῖναι  
μὲν οὐ διακωλύει, ὠφελοῦνται δὲ οὐδὲν συνόντες.  
οἷς δ' ἂν συλλάβηται τῆς συνουσίας ἢ τοῦ δαιμονίου  
δύναμις, οὗτοί εἰσιν ὧν καὶ σὺ ἤσθησαι· ταχὺ γὰρ  
130 παραχρῆμα ἐπιδιδόασιν. καὶ τούτων αὖ τῶν ἐπι-  
διδόντων οἱ μὲν καὶ βέβαιοι ἔχουσι καὶ παρα-  
μόνιμον τὴν ὠφέλειαν· πολλοὶ δέ, ὅσον ἂν μετ'  
ἐμοῦ χρόνον ὦσι, θαυμάσιον ἐπιδιδόασιν, ἐπειδὴν  
δέ μου ἀπόσχονται, πάλιν οὐδὲν διαφέρουσιν  
ότουοῦν. τοῦτό ποτε ἔπαθεν Ἀριστείδης ὁ Λυσι-  
μάχου υἱὸς τοῦ Ἀριστείδου. διατρίβων γὰρ μετ'  
ἐμοῦ πάμπλου ἐπεδεδώκει ἐν ὀλίγῳ χρόνῳ· ἔπειτα  
αὐτῷ στρατεία τις ἐγένετο καὶ ὥχето ἐκπλέων·  
ἦκων δὲ κατελάμβανε μετ' ἐμοῦ διατρίβοντα  
Θουκυδίδη τὸν Μελησίου υἱὸν τοῦ Θουκυδίδου.  
ὁ δὲ Θουκυδίδης τῇ προτεραίᾳ μοι δι' ἀπεχθείας  
B ἐν λόγοις τισὶν ἐγεγόνει. ἰδὼν οὖν με ὁ Ἀρι-  
στείδης, ἐπειδὴ ἠσπάσατό τε καὶ τᾶλλα διελέχθη,  
Θουκυδίδη δέ, ἔφη, ἀκούω, ὦ Σώκρατες, σεμνύ-  
νεσθαι ἅττα πρὸς σέ καὶ χαλεπαίνειν ὡς τὶ ὄντα.

<sup>1</sup> γ' ἐλᾶν Hermann: γελᾶν, ἐλᾶν mss.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Theaet.* 151 A, from which this passage is derived. The Aristides and Thucydides mentioned here were the grandsons respectively of Aristides, the Athenian statesman of the time of the Persian wars, and of Thucydides, the

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ingly expect him to be either killed or brought very near it, and I have great fears for our force as a whole.

Now I have told you all this, because this spiritual power that attends me also exerts itself to the full in my intercourse with those who spend their time with me. To many, indeed, it is adverse, and it is not possible for these to get any good by conversing with me, and I am therefore unable to spend my time in conversing with them. And there are many with whom it does not prohibit my intercourse, yet the intercourse does them no good. But those who are assisted in their intercourse by that spiritual power are the persons whom you have noticed; for they make rapid progress there and then. And of these, again, who make progress some find the benefit both solid and enduring; while there are many who, for as long a time as they are with me, make wonderful progress, but when they are parted from me relapse, and are no different from anybody else. This once befell Aristeides,<sup>1</sup> son of Lysimachus, son of Aristeides. For by conversing with me he had made immense progress in a little time; and then he had to go on an expedition, and he went and sailed away. On his return he found that Thucydides, son of Melesias, son of Thucydides, had been conversing with me. Now Thucydides, the day before, had quarrelled with me over some arguments we had had. So when Aristeides saw me, after greeting me and talking of other affairs, he said: "But Thucydides, I hear, Socrates, is somewhat on his dignity with you, and is annoyed aristocratic opponent of Pericles. Their fathers Lysimachus and Melesias appear in the *Laches*.

Ἔστι γάρ, ἔφην ἐγώ, οὕτως. Τί δέ; οὐκ οἶδεν,  
 ἔφη, πρὶν σοὶ συγγενέσθαι, οἷον ἦν τὸ ἀνδράποδον;  
 Οὐκ ἔοικέ γε, ἔφην ἐγώ, νῆ τοὺς θεούς. Ἀλλὰ  
 μὴν καὶ αὐτὸς γε, ἔφη, καταγελάστως ἔχω, ὦ  
 C Σώκρατες. Τί μάλιστα; ἔφην ἐγώ. Ὅτι, ἔφη,  
 πρὶν μὲν ἐκπλεῖν, ὄψουν ἀνθρώπῳ οἷός τ' ἦν  
 διαλέγεσθαι καὶ μηδενὸς χείρων φαίνεσθαι ἐν  
 τοῖς λόγοις, ὥστε καὶ ἐδίωκον τὰς συνουσίας τῶν  
 χαριεστάτων ἀνθρώπων· νυνὶ δὲ τοῦναντίον φεύγω,  
 ἂν τινα καὶ αἰσθάνωμαι πεπαιδευμένον· οὕτως  
 αἰσχύνομαι ἐπὶ τῇ ἐμαυτοῦ φαυλότητι. Πότερον  
 δέ, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, ἐξαίφνης σε προὔλιπεν αὕτη ἢ  
 δύναμις ἢ κατὰ σμικρόν; Κατὰ σμικρόν, ἦ δ' ὅς.  
 Ἐνίκα δέ σοι παρεγένετο, ἦν δ' ἐγώ, πότερον  
 D μαθόντι παρ' ἐμοῦ τι παρεγένετο, ἢ τινι ἄλλῳ  
 τρόπῳ; Ἐγώ σοι ἐρῶ, ἔφη, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἄπιστον  
 μὲν νῆ τοὺς θεούς, ἀληθὲς δέ· ἐγὼ γὰρ ἔμαθον  
 μὲν παρὰ σοῦ οὐδὲν πώποτε, ὡς αὐτὸς οἶσθα·  
 ἐπεδίδουν δέ, ὅποτε σοι συνείην, κὰν εἰ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ  
 μόνον οἰκία εἶην, μὴ ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ δὲ οἰκήματι,  
 μᾶλλον δὲ ὅποτε ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ οἰκήματι· καὶ ἔμοιγε  
 ἐδόκουν πολὺ μᾶλλον ὅποτε ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ οἰκήματι  
 ὦν λέγοντός σου βλέποιμι πρὸς σέ, μᾶλλον ἢ  
 E ὅποτε ἄλλοσε ὀρώην· πολὺ δὲ μάλιστα καὶ πλείστον  
 ἐπεδίδουν, ὅποτε παρ' αὐτόν σε καθοίμην ἐχό-  
 μενός σου καὶ ἀπτόμενος· νῦν δέ, ἦ δ' ὅς, πᾶσα  
 ἐκείνη ἢ ἕξις ἐξερρύηκεν.

Ἔστιν οὖν, ὦ Θεάγες, τοιαύτη ἢ ἡμετέρα συν-  
 ουσία· εἰ μὲν τῷ θεῷ φίλον ἦ, πάνυ πολὺ ἐπι-  
 δώσεις καὶ ταχύ, εἰ δὲ μή, οὔ. ὄρα οὖν μή σοι

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as though he were somebody. "Yes, that is so," I replied. "Well, but does he not know," he said, "what a sad slave he was, before he associated with you?" "It seems not," I replied, "upon my soul." "But indeed I myself also," he said, "am in a ridiculous position, Socrates." "How exactly?" I asked. "Because," he replied, "before I sailed away, I was able to discuss things with anybody, and show myself inferior to none in argument, so that I even sought out the debates of the most accomplished people: but now, on the contrary, I shun them, wherever I notice there is anyone of education, so ashamed I am of my own ineptitude." "Tell me," I said, "did this power forsake you of a sudden, or little by little?" "Little by little," he replied. "And when it was present with you," I asked, "was it present through your having learnt something from me, or in some other way?" "I will tell you, Socrates," he said, "what is incredible, upon my soul, yet true. For I never yet learnt anything from you, as you know yourself: but I made progress, whenever I was with you, if I was merely in the same house, without being in the same room, but more progress, when I was in the same room. And it seemed to me to be much more when I was in the same room and looked at you as you were speaking, than when I turned my eyes elsewhere: but my progress was far the greatest and most marked whenever I sat beside you and held and touched you. Now, however," he said, "that condition has all oozed away."

Such then, Theages, is the intercourse you would have with me: if God so wills, you will make very great and rapid progress, but otherwise, you will

ἀσφαλέστερον ἢ παρ' ἐκείνων τινὶ παιδεύεσθαι, οἱ ἐγκρατεῖς αὐτοὶ εἰσι τῆς ὠφελίας ἢν ὠφελούσι τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, μᾶλλον ἢ παρ' ἐμοὶ ὅ τι ἂν τύχη τοῦτο πράξει.

131 ΘΕ. Ἐμοὶ μὲν τοίνυν δοκεῖ, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἡμᾶς οὕτως ποιῆσαι, ἀποπειραθῆναι τοῦ δαιμονίου τούτου συνόντας ἀλλήλοις. καὶ ἐὰν μὲν παρείκη ἡμῖν, ταῦτα βέλτιστα· εἰ δὲ μή, τότε ἤδη παραχρῆμα βουλευσόμεθα ὅ τι δράσομεν, εἴτε ἄλλω συνεσόμεθα, εἴτε καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ θεῖον τὸ σοὶ γιγνόμενον πειρασόμεθα παραμυθεῖσθαι εὐχαῖσι τε καὶ θυσίαις καὶ ἄλλω ὅτῳ ἂν οἱ μάντις ἐξηγῶνται.

ΔΗ. Μηκέτι πρὸς ταῦτα ἀντίειπης, ὦ Σώκρατες, τῷ μεираκίῳ· εὖ γὰρ λέγει Θεάγης.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ χρῆναι οὕτω ποιεῖν, οὕτω ποιῶμεν.

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not. Consider, therefore, if it is not safer for you to be educated by one of those persons who have command themselves of the benefit which they bestow on mankind, rather than follow the course on which you may chance with me.

THE. Well then, I decide, Socrates, that our plan shall be to make trial of that spiritual sign by associating with each other. Thus, if it leaves us free, that will be best of all ; if it does not, it will be time then for us to consider, at the moment, what we shall do—whether we shall associate with someone else, or try to conciliate the divine sign itself that occurs to you with prayers and sacrifices and anything else that the seers may indicate.

DEM. In view of this, Socrates, say no more in opposition to the lad ; for Theages is right in what he says.

SOC. Well, if you consider that this is what we ought to do, let us do it.





# MINOS

## INTRODUCTION TO THE *MINOS*

THIS Dialogue may be classed with the *Hipparchus* as a fairly able and plausible imitation of Plato's early work, but it is destitute of those graceful or lively touches of characterization which distinguish his first memorials of Socrates, while the sequence of thought is awkward and none too clear. Socrates asks his nameless companion for a definition of Law, and shows how the various answers he receives are unsound or inadequate. He then himself suggests (315) that it must be true opinion, or discovery of reality.<sup>1</sup> His companion thereupon shows at some length how greatly laws differ among different communities. Socrates recalls him to the point that there must be something constant and the same in all that can be referred to as law, and cites medicine, agriculture, gardening, and cookery as giving instances of what he is seeking (316). His requirement of knowledge of what is right in every kind of artist or administrator leads him on to a consideration of lawgiving as a distributive skill<sup>2</sup> which pervades all arts and functions (317-318), and he proceeds, with a somewhat laboured solemnity, to set forth

<sup>1</sup> Contrast the discussion in *Meno*, 97-8, where right opinion is clearly distinguished from knowledge.

<sup>2</sup> See note on 317 D for this absurd forcing of the primitive notion of "distribution" or "apportionment" from the word *νόμος*.

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the merits of Minos, king of Cnossos in Crete, as a lawgiver (319-320): but, just as we are hoping to gain from this long exposition a little more light for our inquiry about the meaning of law, we are abruptly told that our ignorance is shameful, and the discussion is thus clumsily broken off.

# ΜΙΝΩΣ Η ΠΕΡΙ ΝΟΜΟΥ

[ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΟΣ]

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΣΩΚΡΑΤΗΣ, ΕΤΑΙΡΟΣ

St. II.  
p. 313

ΣΩ. Ὁ νόμος ἡμῖν τί ἐστίν;

ΕΤ. Ποῖον<sup>1</sup> καὶ ἐρωτᾶς τῶν νόμων;

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; ἔστιν ὃ τι διαφέρει νόμος νόμου κατ' αὐτὸ τοῦτο, κατὰ τὸ νόμος εἶναι; σκόπει γὰρ δὴ ὃ τυγχάνω ἐρωτῶν σε. ἐρωτῶ γάρ, ὥσπερ εἰ ἀνηρόμην, τί ἐστὶ χρυσός, εἴ με ὡσαύτως ἀνήρου, ὁποῖον καὶ λέγω χρυσόν, οἶομαί σε οὐκ ἂν ὀρθῶς ἐρέσθαι. οὐδὲν γάρ που διαφέρει οὔτε χρυσὸς χρυσοῦ οὔτε λίθος λίθου κατὰ γε τὸ λίθος εἶναι καὶ κατὰ τὸ χρυσός· οὕτω δὲ οὐδὲ νόμος που νόμου οὐδὲν διαφέρει, ἀλλὰ πάντες εἰσὶ ταυτόν. νόμος γὰρ ἕκαστος αὐτῶν ἐστὶν ὁμοίως, οὐχ ὃ μὲν μᾶλλον, ὃ δ' ἥττον· τοῦτο δὴ αὐτὸ ἐρωτῶ, τὸ πᾶν τί ἐστὶ νόμος. εἰ οὖν σοι πρόχειρον, εἰπέ.

ΕΤ. Τί οὖν ἄλλο νόμος εἶη ἂν, ὧ Σώκρατες, ἀλλ' ἢ τὰ νομιζόμενα;

<sup>1</sup> ποῖον Hermann: ὁποῖον MSS.

<sup>1</sup> νομιζόμενα in ordinary speech meant "accepted by custom": "loyally" here attempts to preserve the connexion

# MINOS OR ON LAW

[POLITICAL]

## CHARACTERS

SOCRATES, COMPANION

soc. Tell me, what is law ?

com. To what kind of law does your question refer ?

soc. What ! Is there any difference between law and law, in this particular point of being law ? For just consider what is the actual question I am putting to you. It is as though I had asked, what is gold : if you had asked me in the same manner, to what kind of gold I refer, I think your question would have been incorrect. For I presume there is no difference between gold and gold, or between stone and stone, in point of being gold or stone ; and so neither does law differ at all from law, I suppose, but they are all the same thing. For each of them is law alike, not one more so, and another less. That is the particular point of my question—what is law as a whole ? So if you are ready, tell me.

com. Well, what else should law be, Socrates, but things loyally accepted ?<sup>1</sup>

with νόμος (“law” in this context, though sometimes “custom,” as below, 315 D).

PLATO

ΣΩ. Ἡ καὶ λόγος σοι δοκεῖ εἶναι τὰ λεγόμενα, ἢ ὄψις τὰ ὀρώμενα, ἢ ἀκοή τὰ ἀκουόμενα; ἢ ἄλλο C μὲν λόγος, ἄλλο δὲ τὰ λεγόμενα· καὶ ἄλλο μὲν ὄψις, ἄλλο δὲ τὰ ὀρώμενα· καὶ ἄλλο μὲν ἀκοή, ἄλλο δὲ τὰ ἀκουόμενα, καὶ ἄλλο δὴ νόμος, ἄλλο δὲ τὰ νομιζόμενα; οὕτως ἢ πῶς σοι δοκεῖ;

ΕΤ. Ἄλλο μοι νῦν ἐφάνη.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα νόμος ἐστὶ τὰ νομιζόμενα.

ΕΤ. Οὐ μοι δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Τί δῆτ' ἂν εἴη νόμος; ἐπισκεψώμεθα αὐτὸ ὧδε. εἴ τις ἡμᾶς τὰ νῦν δὴ λεγόμενα ἀνήρετο, 314 ἐπειδὴ ὄψει φατέ τὰ ὀρώμενα ὀράσθαι, τίνι ὄντι τῇ ὄψει ὀράται; ἀπεκρινάμεθ' ἂν αὐτῷ, ὅτι αἰσθήσει ταύτῃ τῇ διὰ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν δηλούση τὰ πράγματα· εἰ δ' αὖ ἤρετο ἡμᾶς, τί δέ; ἐπειδὴ ἀκοῇ τὰ ἀκουόμενα ἀκούεται, τίνι ὄντι τῇ ἀκοῇ; ἀπεκρινάμεθ' ἂν αὐτῷ, ὅτι αἰσθήσει ταύτῃ τῇ διὰ τῶν ὠτων δηλούση ἡμῖν τὰς φωνάς. οὕτω τοίνυν καὶ εἰ ἀνέροιτο ἡμᾶς, ἐπειδὴ νόμῳ τὰ νομιζόμενα νομίζεται, τίνι ὄντι τῷ νόμῳ νομίζεται; πότερον B αἰσθήσει τινὶ ἢ δηλώσει, ὥσπερ τὰ μανθανόμενα μανθάνεται δηλούση τῇ ἐπιστήμῃ, ἢ εὐρέσει τινί, ὥσπερ τὰ εὐρισκόμενα εὐρίσκεται, οἷον τὰ μὲν ὑγιεινὰ καὶ νοσώδη ἰατρικῇ, ἃ δὲ οἱ θεοὶ διανοοῦνται, ὥς φασιν οἱ μάντις, μαντικῇ· ἢ γάρ που τέχνη ἡμῖν εὐρεσίς ἐστι τῶν πραγμάτων· ἢ γάρ;

ΕΤ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν ἂν τούτων ὑπολάβοιμεν μάλιστα τὸν νόμον εἶναι;

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soc. And so speech, you think, is the things that are spoken, or sight the things seen, or hearing the things heard? Or is speech something distinct from the things spoken, sight something distinct from the things seen, and hearing something distinct from the things heard; and so law is something distinct from things loyally accepted? Is this so, or what is your view?

com. I find it now to be something distinct.

soc. Then law is not things loyally accepted.

com. I think not.

soc. Now what can law be? Let us consider it in this way. Suppose someone had asked us about what was stated just now: Since you say it is by sight that things seen are seen, what is this sight whereby they are seen? Our answer to him would have been: That sensation which shows objects by means of the eyes. And if he had asked us again: Well then, since it is by hearing that things heard are heard, what is hearing? Our answer to him would have been: That sensation which shows us sounds by means of the ears. In the same way then, suppose he should also ask us: Since it is by law that loyally accepted things are so accepted, what is this law whereby they are so accepted? Is it some sensation or showing, as when things learnt are learnt by knowledge showing them, or some discovery, as when things discovered are discovered—for instance, the causes of health and sickness by medicine, or the designs of the gods, as the prophets say, by prophecy; for art is surely our discovery of things, is it not?

com. Certainly.

soc. Then what thing especially of this sort shall we surmise law to be?

PLATO

ΕΤ. Τὰ δόγματα ταῦτα καὶ ψηφίσματα, ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ. τί γὰρ ἂν ἄλλο τις φαίη νόμον εἶναι; C ὥστε κινδυνεύει, ὃ σὺ ἐρωτᾷς, τὸ ὅλον τοῦτο, νόμος, δόγμα πόλεως εἶναι.

ΣΩ. Δόξαν, ὡς ἔοικε, λέγεις πολιτικὴν τὸν νόμον.

ΕΤ. Ἐγώ γε.

ΣΩ. Καὶ ἴσως καλῶς λέγεις· τάχα δὲ ὦδε ἄμεινον εἰσόμεθα. λέγεις τινὰς σοφοὺς;

ΕΤ. Ἐγώ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οἱ σοφοὶ εἰσι σοφία σοφοί;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τί δέ; οἱ δίκαιοι δικαιοσύνη δίκαιοι;

ΕΤ. Πάνυ γε.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ οἱ νόμιμοι νόμῳ νόμιμοι;

D ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οἱ δὲ ἄνομοι ἀνομία ἄνομοι;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οἱ δὲ νόμιμοι δίκαιοι;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οἱ δὲ ἄνομοι ἄδικοι;

ΕΤ. Ἄδικοι.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν κάλλιστον ἢ δικαιοσύνη τε καὶ ὁ νόμος;

ΕΤ. Οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Αἴσχιστον δὲ ἢ ἀδικία τε καὶ ἢ ἀνομία;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Καὶ τὸ μὲν σώζει τὰς πόλεις καὶ τὰλλα πάντα, τὸ δὲ ἀπόλλυσι καὶ ἀνατρέπει;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ὡς περὶ καλοῦ ἄρα τινὸς ὄντος δεῖ τοῦ νόμου διανοεῖσθαι, καὶ ὡς ἀγαθὸν αὐτὸ ζητεῖν.

ΕΤ. Πῶς δ' οὔ;



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COM. Our resolutions and decrees, I imagine : for how else can one describe law ? So that apparently the whole thing, law, as you put it in your question, is a city's resolution.

SOC. State opinion, it seems, is what you call law.

COM. I do.

SOC. And perhaps you are right : but I fancy we shall get a better knowledge in this way. You call some men wise ?

COM. I do.

SOC. And the wise are wise by wisdom ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And again, the just are just by justice ?

COM. Certainly.

SOC. And so the law-abiding are law-abiding by law ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And the lawless are lawless by lawlessness ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And the law-abiding are just ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And the lawless are unjust ?

COM. Unjust.

SOC. And justice and law are most noble ?

COM. That is so.

SOC. And injustice and lawlessness most base ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And the former preserve cities and everything else, while the latter destroy and overturn them ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. Hence we must regard law as something noble, and seek after it as a good.

COM. Undeniably.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν δόγμα ἔφαμεν εἶναι πόλεως τὸν νόμον;

Ε. ΕΤ. Ἐφαμεν γάρ.

ΣΩ. Τί οὖν; οὐκ ἔστι τὰ μὲν χρηστὰ δόγματα, τὰ δὲ πονηρά;

ΕΤ. Ἐστι μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Καὶ μὴν νόμος γε οὐκ ἦν πονηρός.

ΕΤ. Οὐ γάρ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα ὀρθῶς ἔχει ἀποκρίνεσθαι οὕτως ἀπλῶς, ὅτι νόμος ἐστὶ δόγμα πόλεως.

ΕΤ. Οὐκ ἔμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ ἄρα ἀρμόττοι ἂν τὸ πονηρὸν δόγμα νόμος εἶναι.

ΕΤ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ μὴν δόξα γέ τις καὶ αὐτῷ μοι καταφαίνεται ὁ νόμος εἶναι· ἐπειδὴ δὲ οὐχ ἡ πονηρὰ δόξα, ἄρα οὐκ ἤδη τοῦτο κατάδηλον, ὡς ἡ χρηστή, εἴπερ δόξα νόμος ἐστίν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Δόξα δὲ χρηστή τίς ἐστίν; οὐχ ἡ ἀληθής;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

315 ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἡ ἀληθής δόξα τοῦ ὄντος ἐστὶν ἐξεύρεσις;

ΕΤ. Ἐστι γάρ.

ΣΩ. Ὁ νόμος ἄρα βούλεται τοῦ ὄντος εἶναι ἐξεύρεσις.

ΕΤ. Πῶς οὖν, ὦ Σώκρατες, εἰ ὁ νόμος τοῦ ὄντος ἐστὶν ἐξεύρεσις, οὐκ αἰεὶ τοῖς αὐτοῖς νόμοις χρώμεθα περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν, εἰ τὰ ὄντα γε ἡμῖν ἐξηύρηται;

ΣΩ. Βούλεται μὲν οὐδὲν ἦπτον ὁ νόμος εἶναι τοῦ ὄντος ἐξεύρεσις· οἱ δ' ἄρα μὴ τοῖς αὐτοῖς αἰεὶ

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soc. And we said that law is a city's resolution ?

com. So we did.

soc. Well now, are not some resolutions good, and others evil ?

com. Yes, to be sure.

soc. And, you know, law was not evil.

com. No, indeed.

soc. So it is not right to reply, in that simple fashion, that law is a city's resolution.

com. I agree that it is not.

soc. An evil resolution, you see, cannot properly be a law.

com. No, to be sure.

soc. But still, I am quite clear myself that law is some sort of opinion ; and since it is not evil opinion, is it not manifest by this time that it is good opinion, granting that law is opinion ?

com. Yes.

soc. But what is good opinion ? Is it not true opinion ?

com. Yes.

soc. And true opinion is discovery of reality ?

com. Yes, it is.

soc. So law tends to be discovery of reality.

com. Then how is it, Socrates, if law is discovery of reality, that we do not use always the same laws on the same matters, if we have thus got realities discovered ?

soc. Law tends none the less to be discovery of reality : but men, who do not use always the same

B νόμοις χρώμενοι ἄνθρωποι, ὡς δοκοῦμεν, οὐκ αἰεὶ δύνανται ἐξευρίσκειν ὃ βούλεται ὁ νόμος, τὸ ὄν. ἐπεὶ φέρε ἴδωμεν, εἴαν ἄρα ἡμῖν ἐνθένδε κατάδηλον γένηται, εἴτε τοῖς αὐτοῖς αἰεὶ νόμοις χρώμεθα ἢ ἄλλοτε ἄλλοις, καὶ εἰ ἅπαντες τοῖς αὐτοῖς ἢ ἄλλοι ἄλλοις.

ET. Ἄλλὰ τοῦτό γε, ὦ Σώκρατες, οὐ χαλεπὸν γνῶναι, ὅτι οὔτε οἱ αὐτοὶ αἰεὶ τοῖς αὐτοῖς νόμοις χρῶνται ἄλλοι τε ἄλλοις. ἐπεὶ αὐτίκα ἡμῖν μὲν οὐ νόμος ἐστὶν ἀνθρώπουσ θύειν ἀλλ' ἀνόσιον,

C Καρχηδόνιοι δὲ θύουσιν ὡς ὄσιον ὃν καὶ νόμιμον αὐτοῖς, καὶ ταῦτα ἔνιοι αὐτῶν καὶ τοὺς αὐτῶν νείεις τῷ Κρόνῳ, ὡς ἴσως καὶ σὺ ἀκήκοας. καὶ μὴ ὅτι βάρβαροι ἄνθρωποι ἡμῶν ἄλλοις νόμοις χρῶνται, ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ ἐν τῇ Λυκαίᾳ οὔτοι καὶ οἱ τοῦ Ἀθάμαντος ἔκγονοι οἷας θυσίας θύουσιν Ἕλληνες ὄντες· ὥσπερ καὶ ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς οἴσθ᾽ αὖτις καὶ αὐτὸς ἀκούων, οἷοις νόμοις ἐχρώμεθα πρὸ τοῦ περὶ τοὺς ἀποθανόντας, ἱερείᾳ τε προσφάττοντες πρὸ τῆς

D ἐκφορᾶς τοῦ νεκροῦ καὶ ἐγχυτριστρίας μεταπεμπόμενοι· οἱ δ' αὖ ἐκείνων ἔτι πρότεροι αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔθαπτον ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ τοὺς ἀποθανόντας· ἡμεῖς δὲ τούτων οὐδὲν ποιοῦμεν. μυρία δ' ἂν τις ἔχοι τοιαῦτα εἰπεῖν· πολλὴ γὰρ εὐρυχωρία τῆς ἀποδείξεως, ὡς οὔτε ἡμεῖς ἡμῖν αὐτοῖς αἰεὶ κατὰ ταῦτὰ νομίζομεν οὔτε ἀλλήλοις οἱ ἄνθρωποι.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲν τοι θαυμαστόν ἐστιν, ὦ βέλτιστε, εἰ σὺ μὲν ὀρθῶς λέγεις, ἐμὲ δὲ τοῦτο λέληθεν. ἀλλ' ἕως ἂν σὺ τε κατὰ σαυτὸν λέγῃς ἃ σοι δοκεῖ μακρῶ

<sup>1</sup> Or Lycoa, a town in the Arcadian district Maenalia.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Herod. vii. 197. At Alus in Achaëa Xerxes was told of human sacrifices offered to purge the guilt of Athamas in plotting the death of his son Phrixus.

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laws, as we observe, are not always able to discover what the law is intent on—reality. For come now, let us see if from this point onward we can get it clear whether we use always the same laws or different ones at different times, and whether we all use the same, or some of us use some, and others others.

COM. Why, that, Socrates, is no difficult matter to determine—that the same men do not use always the same laws, and also that different men use different ones. With us, for instance, human sacrifice is not legal, but unholy, whereas the Carthaginians perform it as a thing they account holy and legal, and that too when some of them sacrifice even their own sons to Cronos, as I daresay you yourself have heard. And not merely is it foreign peoples who use different laws from ours, but our neighbours in Lycaea<sup>1</sup> and the descendants of Athamas<sup>2</sup>—you know their sacrifices, Greeks though they be. And as to ourselves too, you know, of course, from what you have heard yourself, the kind of laws we formerly used in regard to our dead, when we slaughtered sacred victims before the funeral procession, and engaged urn-women to collect the bones from the ashes. Then again, a yet earlier generation used to bury the dead where they were, in the house: but we do none of these things. One might give thousands of other instances; for there is ample means of proving that neither we copy ourselves nor mankind each other always in laws and customs.

SOC. And it is no wonder, my excellent friend, if what you say is correct, and I have overlooked it. But if you continue to express your views after your own fashion in lengthy speeches, and I speak likewise, we

Ε λόγῳ καὶ πάλιν ἐγώ, οὐδὲν μὴ ποτε συμβῶμεν, ὡς ἐγὼ οἶμαι· ἐὰν δὲ κοινὸν τεθῆ τὸ σκέμμα, τάχ' ἂν ὁμολογήσαιμεν. εἰ μὲν οὖν βούλει, πυνθανόμενός τι παρ' ἐμοῦ κοινῇ μετ' ἐμοῦ σκόπει· εἰ δ' αὖ βούλει, ἀποκρινόμενος.

ΕΤ. Ἄλλ' ἐθέλω, ὦ Σώκρατες, ἀποκρίνεσθαι ὅ τι ἂν βούλη.

ΣΩ. Φέρε δὴ, σὺ πότερα νομίζεις τὰ δίκαια ἄδικα εἶναι καὶ τὰ ἄδικα δίκαια, ἢ τὰ μὲν δίκαια δίκαια, τὰ δὲ ἄδικα ἄδικα;

ΕΤ. Ἐγὼ μὲν τά τε δίκαια δίκαια καὶ τὰ ἄδικα ἄδικα.

316 ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ παρὰ πᾶσιν οὕτως ὡς ἐνθάδε νομίζεται;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἐν Πέρσαις;

ΕΤ. <Καὶ ἐν Πέρσαις>.<sup>1</sup>

ΣΩ. Ἄλλ' αἰεὶ δήπου;

ΕΤ. Ἄεί.

ΣΩ. Πότερον δὲ τὰ πλείον ἔλκοντα βαρύτερα νομίζεται ἐνθάδε, τὰ δὲ ἔλαττον κουφότερα, ἢ τοῦναντίον;

ΕΤ. Οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τὰ πλείον ἔλκοντα βαρύτερα, τὰ δὲ ἔλαττον κουφότερα.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἐν Καρχηδόνι καὶ ἐν Λυκαίᾳ;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τὰ μὲν καλά, ὡς ἔοικε, πανταχοῦ νομίζεται  
B καλὰ καὶ τὰ αἰσχρὰ αἰσχρά, ἀλλ' οὐ τὰ αἰσχρὰ  
καλὰ οὐδὲ τὰ καλὰ αἰσχρά.

ΕΤ. Οὕτως.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν, ὡς κατὰ πάντων εἰπεῖν, τὰ ὄντα

<sup>1</sup> καὶ ἐν Πέρσαις add. vulg.

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shall never come to any agreement, in my opinion : but if we study the matter jointly, we may perhaps concur. Well now, if you like, hold a joint inquiry with me by asking me questions ; or if you prefer, by answering them.

COM. Why, I am willing, Socrates, to answer anything you like.

SOC. Come then, do you consider <sup>1</sup> just things to be unjust and unjust things just, or just things to be just and unjust things unjust ?

COM. I consider just things to be just, and unjust things unjust.

SOC. And are they so considered among all men elsewhere as they are here ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And among the Persians also ?

COM. Among the Persians also.

SOC. Always, I presume ?

COM. Always.

SOC. Are things that weigh more considered heavier here, and things that weigh less lighter, or the contrary ?

COM. No, those that weigh more are considered heavier, and those that weigh less lighter.

SOC. And is it so in Carthage also, and in Lycaea ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. Noble things, it would seem, are everywhere considered noble, and base things base ; not base things noble or noble things base.

COM. That is so.

SOC. And thus, as a universal rule, realities, and

<sup>1</sup> The word *νομίζειν* here and in what follows is intended to retain some of the sense of *νόμος* as "accepted" law and custom which it had in what precedes ; see note, 313 B.

## PLATO

νομίζεται εἶναι, οὐ τὰ μὴ ὄντα, καὶ παρ' ἡμῖν καὶ παρὰ τοῖς ἄλλοις ἅπασιν.

ΕΤ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ὅς ἂν ἄρα τοῦ ὄντος ἀμαρτάνη, τοῦ νομίμου ἀμαρτάνει.

ΕΤ. Οὕτω μὲν, ὦ Σώκρατες, ὡς σὺ λέγεις, ταῦτα φαίνεται νόμιμα καὶ ἡμῖν αἰεὶ καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις. C ἐπειδὴν δ' ἐννοήσω, ὅτι οὐδὲν πανόμεθα ἄνω κάτω μετατιθέμενοι τοὺς νόμους, οὐ δύναμαι πεισθῆναι.

ΣΩ. Ἴσως γὰρ οὐκ ἐννοεῖς ταῦτα μεταπεπτευόμενα ὅτι ταῦτά ἐστιν. ἀλλ' ὦδε μετ' ἐμοῦ αὐτὰ ἄθρει. ἤδη ποτὲ ἐνέτυχες συγγράμματι περὶ ὑγείας τῶν καμνόντων;

ΕΤ. Ἐγωγε.

ΣΩ. Οἶσθα οὖν, τίνος τέχνης τοῦτό ἐστι τὸ σύγγραμμα;

ΕΤ. Οἶδα, ὅτι ἰατρικῆς.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ἰατροὺς καλεῖς τοὺς ἐπιστήμονας περὶ τούτων;

ΕΤ. Φημί.

D ΣΩ. Πότερον οὖν οἱ ἐπιστήμονες ταῦτα περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν νομίζουσιν ἢ ἄλλοι ἄλλα;

ΕΤ. Ταῦτα ἔμοιγε δοκοῦσιν.

ΣΩ. Πότερον οἱ Ἕλληνες μόνοι τοῖς Ἕλλησιν ἢ καὶ οἱ βάρβαροι αὐτοῖς τε καὶ τοῖς Ἕλλησι, περὶ ὧν ἂν εἰδῶσι, ταῦτα νομίζουσιν;

ΕΤ. Ταῦτα δήπου πολλῇ ἀνάγκῃ ἐστὶ τοὺς εἰδότας αὐτοὺς αὐτοῖς συννομίζειν καὶ Ἕλληνας καὶ βαρβάρους.



## MINOS

not unrealities, are accepted as real, both among us and among all other men.

COM. I agree.

SOC. Then whoever fails to attain reality, fails to attain accepted law.

COM. In your present way of putting it, Socrates, the same things appear to be accepted as lawful both by us and by the rest of the world, always : but when I reflect that we are continually changing our laws in all sorts of ways, I cannot bring myself to assent.

SOC. Perhaps it is because you do not reflect that when we change our pieces at draughts they are the same pieces. But look at it, as I do, in this way. Have you in your time come across a treatise on healing the sick ?

COM. I have.

SOC. Then do you know to what art such a treatise belongs ?

COM. I do : medicine.

SOC. And you give the name of doctors to those who have knowledge of these matters ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. Then do those who have knowledge accept the same views on the same things, or do they accept different views ?

COM. The same, in my opinion.

SOC. Do Greeks only accept the same views as Greeks on what they know, or do foreigners also agree on these matters, both among themselves and with Greeks ?

COM. It is quite inevitable, I should say, that those who know should agree in accepting the same views, whether Greeks or foreigners.

PLATO

ΣΩ. Καλῶς γε ἀπεκρίνω. οὐκοῦν καὶ αἰεὶ;

ΕΤ. Ναὶ καὶ αἰεὶ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ οἱ ἰατροὶ συγγράφουσι περὶ  
 Ε ὑγείας, ἅπερ καὶ νομίζουσιν εἶναι;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἰατρικὰ ἄρα καὶ ἰατρικοὶ νόμοι ταῦτα τὰ  
 συγγράμματα ἐστὶ τὰ τῶν ἰατρῶν.

ΕΤ. Ἰατρικὰ μέντοι.

ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν καὶ τὰ γεωργικὰ συγγράμματα  
 γεωργικοὶ νόμοι εἰσίν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τίνων οὖν ἐστὶ τὰ περὶ κήπων ἐργασίας  
 συγγράμματα καὶ νόμιμα;

ΕΤ. Κηπουρῶν.

ΣΩ. Κηπουρικοὶ ἄρα νόμοι ἡμῖν εἰσὶν οὗτοι.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τῶν ἐπισταμένων κήπων ἄρχειν;

ΕΤ. Πῶς δ' οὔ;

ΣΩ. Ἐπίστανται δ' οἱ κηπουροί.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Τίνων δὲ τὰ περὶ ὄψου σκευασίας συγγράμ-  
 ματά τε καὶ νόμιμα;

ΕΤ. Μαγείρων.

ΣΩ. Μαγειρικοὶ ἄρα νόμοι εἰσίν;

ΕΤ. Μαγειρικοί.

ΣΩ. Τῶν ἐπισταμένων, ὡς ἔοικεν, ὄψου σκευασίας  
 ἄρχειν;

317 ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Ἐπίστανται δ', ὡς φασιν, οἱ μάγειροι;

ΕΤ. Ἐπίστανται γάρ.

ΣΩ. Εἶεν· τίνων δὲ δὴ τὰ περὶ πόλεως διοικήσεως

## MINOS

soc. Well answered. And do they so always ?

com. Yes, it is so always.

soc. And do doctors on their part, in their treatises on health, write what they accept as real ?

com. Yes.

soc. Then these treatises of the doctors are medical, and medical laws.

com. Medical, to be sure.

soc. And are agricultural treatises likewise agricultural laws ?

com. Yes.

soc. And whose are the treatises and accepted rules about garden-work ?

com. Gardeners'.

soc. So these are our gardening laws.

com. Yes.

soc. Of people who know how to control gardens ?

com. Certainly.

soc. And it is the gardeners who know.

com. Yes.

soc. And whose are the treatises and accepted rules about the confection of tasty dishes ?

com. Cooks'.

soc. Then there are laws of cookery ?

com. Of cookery.

soc. Of people who know, it would seem, how to control the confection of tasty dishes ?

com. Yes.

soc. And it is the cooks, they say, who know ?

com. Yes, it is they who know.

soc. Very well ; and now, whose are the treatises

PLATO

συγγράμματά τε καὶ νόμιμά ἐστιν; ἄρ' οὐ τῶν ἐπισταμένων πόλεων ἄρχειν;

ΕΤ. Ἐμοιγε δοκεῖ.

ΣΩ. Ἐπίστανται δὲ ἄλλοι τινὲς ἢ οἱ πολιτικοὶ τε καὶ οἱ βασιλικοί;

ΕΤ. Οὗτοι μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Πολιτικὰ ἄρα ταῦτα συγγράμματά ἐστιν, οὓς οἱ ἄνθρωποι νόμους καλοῦσι, βασιλέων τε καὶ Β ἀνδρῶν ἀγαθῶν συγγράμματα.

ΕΤ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλο τι οὖν οἷ γε ἐπιστάμενοι οὐκ ἄλλοτε ἄλλα συγγράψουσι περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν;

ΕΤ. Οὐ.

ΣΩ. Οὐδὲ μεταθήσονται ποτε περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν ἕτερα καὶ ἕτερα νόμιμα;

ΕΤ. Οὐ δῆτα.

ΣΩ. Ἐὰν οὖν ὀρώμῃεν τινὰς ὅπου οὖν τοῦτο ποιῶντας, πότερα φήσομεν ἐπιστήμονας εἶναι ἢ ἀνεπιστήμονας τοὺς τοῦτο ποιῶντας;

ΕΤ. Ἀνεπιστήμονας.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ὁ μὲν ἂν ὀρθὸν ἦ, νόμιμον αὐτὸ φήσομεν ἐκάστῳ εἶναι, ἢ τὸ ἰατρικὸν ἢ τὸ μαγειρικὸν ἢ τὸ κηπουρικόν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

С ΣΩ. Ὁ δ' ἂν μὴ ὀρθὸν ἦ, οὐκέτι φήσομεν τοῦτο νόμιμον εἶναι;

ΕΤ. Οὐκέτι.

ΣΩ. Ἄνομον ἄρα γίγνεται.

ΕΤ. Ἀνάγκη.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν καὶ ἐν τοῖς συγγράμμασι τοῖς περὶ τῶν δικαίων καὶ ἀδίκων καὶ ὅλως περὶ πόλεως

## MINOS

and accepted rules about the government of a state ?  
Of the people who know how to control states, are they not ?

COM. I agree.

SOC. And is it anyone else than statesmen and royal persons<sup>1</sup> who know ?

COM. It is they, to be sure.

SOC. Then what people call "laws" are treatises of state,—writings of kings and good men.

COM. That is true.

SOC. And must it not be that those who know will not write differently at different times on the same matters ?

COM. They will not.

SOC. Nor will they ever change one set of accepted rules for another in respect of the same matters.

COM. No, indeed.

SOC. So if we see some persons anywhere doing this, shall we say that those who do so have knowledge, or have none ?

COM. That they have no knowledge.

SOC. And again, whatever is right, we shall say is lawful for each person, whether in medicine or in cookery or in gardening ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And whatever is not right we shall decline to call lawful ?

COM. We shall decline.

SOC. Then it becomes unlawful.

COM. It must.

SOC. And again, in writings about what is just and unjust, and generally about the government of a

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Euthyd.* 291 c, *Politicus* 266-7, where Plato identifies the statesman's and the king's art.

## PLATO

διακοσμήσεώς τε καὶ περὶ τοῦ ὡς χρῆ πόλιν διοικεῖν, τὸ μὲν ὀρθὸν νόμος ἐστὶ βασιλικός, τὸ δὲ μὴ ὀρθὸν οὐ, ὃ δοκεῖ νόμος εἶναι τοῖς μὴ εἰδόσιν· ἐστὶ γὰρ ἄνομον.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

D ΣΝ. Ὅρθῶς ἄρα ὠμολογήσαμεν νόμον εἶναι τοῦ ὄντος εὕρεσιν.

ΕΤ. Φαίνεται.

ΣΝ. Ἔτι δὲ καὶ τόδε ἐν αὐτῷ διαθεώμεθα.<sup>1</sup> τίς ἐπιστήμων διανέμει ἐπὶ γῆ τὰ σπέρματα;

ΕΤ. Γεωργός.

ΣΝ. Οὗτος δὲ τὰ ἄξια σπέρματα ἐκάστη γῆ διανέμει;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Ὁ γεωργὸς ἄρα νομεὺς ἀγαθὸς τούτων, καὶ οἱ τούτου νόμοι καὶ διανομαὶ ἐπὶ ταῦτα ὀρθαί εἰσιν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Τίς δὲ κρουμάτων ἐπὶ τὰ μέλη ἀγαθὸς νομεὺς, καὶ τὰ ἄξια νεῖμαι, καὶ οἱ τίνος νόμοι ὀρθοί εἰσιν;

E ΕΤ. Οἱ τοῦ ἀλλητοῦ καὶ τοῦ κιθαριστοῦ.

ΣΝ. Ὁ νομικώτατος ἄρα ἐν τούτοις, οὗτος ἀλλητικώτατος.

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Τίς δὲ τὴν τροφήν ἐπὶ τὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων σώματα διανέμει ἄριστος; οὐχ ὅσπερ τὴν ἀξίαν;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΝ. Αἱ τούτου ἄρα διανομαὶ καὶ οἱ νόμοι βέλτιστοι, καὶ ὅστις περὶ ταῦτα νομικώτατος, καὶ νομεὺς ἄριστος.

<sup>1</sup> διαθεώμεθα Hermann : διαθώμεθα, θεασώμεθα mss.

## MINOS

state and the proper way of governing it, that which is right is the king's law, but not so that which is not right, though it seems to be law to those who do not know ; for it is unlawful.

COM. Yes.

SOC. Then we rightly admitted that law is discovery of reality.

COM. So it appears.

SOC. Now let us observe this further point about it. Who has knowledge of distributing<sup>1</sup> seed over land ?

COM. A farmer.

SOC. And does he distribute the suitable seed to each sort of land ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. Then the farmer is a good apportioner of it, and his laws and distributions are right in this matter ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. And who is a good apportioner of notes struck for a tune, skilled in distributing suitable notes, and who is it whose laws are right here ?

COM. The flute-player and the harp-player.

SOC. Then he who is the best lawyer in these matters is the best flute-player.

COM. Yes.

SOC. And who is most skilled in distributing food to human bodies ? Is it not he who assigns suitable food ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. Then his distributions and laws are best, and whoever is the best lawyer in this matter is also the best apportioner.

<sup>1</sup> The words *διανέμειν* and *νομεύς* in this passage introduce the primitive meaning of *νόμος* — “distribution” or “apportionment” of each person's status, property, rights, etc.

- ΕΤ. Πάνυ γε.  
 ΣΩ. Τίς οὗτος;  
 ΕΤ. Παιδοτρίβης.  
 318 ΣΩ. Οὗτος τὴν ἀνθρωπείαν ἀγέλην τοῦ σώματος  
 νέμειν κράτιστος;  
 ΕΤ. Ναί.  
 ΣΩ. Τίς δὲ τὴν τῶν προβάτων ἀγέλην κράτιστος  
 νέμειν; τί ὄνομα αὐτῶ;  
 ΕΤ. Ποιμὴν.  
 ΣΩ. Οἱ τοῦ ποιμένος ἄρα νόμοι ἄριστοι τοῖς προ-  
 βάτοις.  
 ΕΤ. Ναί.  
 ΣΩ. Οἱ δὲ τοῦ βουκόλου τοῖς βουσίιν.  
 ΕΤ. Ναί.  
 ΣΩ. Οἱ δὲ τοῦ τίνος νόμοι ἄριστοι ταῖς ψυχαῖς  
 τῶν ἀνθρώπων; οὐχ οἱ τοῦ βασιλέως; φάθι.  
 ΕΤ. Φημὶ δῆ.  
 Β ΣΩ. Καλῶς τοίνυν λέγεις. ἔχοις ἂν οὖν εἰπεῖν,  
 τίς τῶν παλαιῶν ἀγαθὸς γέγονεν ἐν τοῖς ἀλλη-  
 τικοῖς νόμοις νομοθέτης; ἴσως οὐκ ἐννοεῖς, ἀλλ'  
 ἐγὼ βούλει σε ὑπομνήσω;  
 ΕΤ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.  
 ΣΩ. Ἄρ' οὖν ὁ Μαρσύας λέγεται καὶ τὰ παιδικὰ  
 αὐτοῦ Ὀλυμπος ὁ Φρύξ;  
 ΕΤ. Ἀληθῆ λέγεις.  
 ΣΩ. Τούτων δὴ καὶ τὰ ἀυλήματα θειότατά ἐστι,  
 καὶ μόνα κινεῖ καὶ ἐκφαίνει τοὺς τῶν θεῶν ἐν χρεῖα  
 ὄντας· καὶ ἔτι καὶ νῦν μόνα λοιπά, ὡς θεῖα ὄντα.

<sup>1</sup> Here νόμος is connected with a special use of νέμειν—  
 “find appropriate pasture for”—derived from its original  
 meaning of “apportion.”



## MINOS

COM. Certainly.

SOC. Who is he ?

COM. A trainer.

SOC. He is the best man to pasture <sup>1</sup> the human herd of the body ? <sup>2</sup>

COM. Yes.

SOC. And who is the best man to pasture a flock of sheep ? What is his name ?

COM. A shepherd.

SOC. Then the shepherd's laws are best for sheep.

COM. Yes.

SOC. And the herdsman's for oxen.

COM. Yes.

SOC. And whose laws are best for the souls of men ? The king's, are they not ? Say if you agree.

COM. I do.

SOC. Then you are quite right. Now can you tell me who, in former times, has proved himself a good lawgiver in regard to the laws of flute-playing ? Perhaps you cannot think of him : would you like me to remind you ?

COM. Do by all means.

SOC. Then is it Marsyas, by tradition, and his beloved Olympus, the Phrygian ?

COM. That is true.

SOC. And their flute-tunes also are most divine, and alone stir and make manifest those who are in need of the gods ; <sup>3</sup> and to this day they only remain, as being divine.

<sup>2</sup> The awkward imagery of this sentence obviously cannot have come from Plato's mind or hand.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Sympos.* 215 c (from which this allusion to Marsyas is feebly imitated) *δηλοῖ τοὺς τῶν θεῶν τε καὶ τελετῶν δεομένους*, where "in need of the gods" seems to be a mystic phrase for "ready for divine possession" (*ἐνθουσιασμός*).

C ΕΤ. Ἔστι ταῦτα.

ΣΩ. Τίς δὲ λέγεται τῶν παλαιῶν βασιλέων ἀγαθὸς νομοθέτης γεγονέναι, οὐ ἔτι καὶ νῦν τὰ νόμιμα μένει ὡς θεῖα ὄντα;

ΕΤ. Οὐκ ἐννοῶ.

ΣΩ. Οὐκ οἶσθα, τίνες παλαιοτάτοις νόμοις χρῶνται τῶν Ἑλλήνων;

ΕΤ. Ἄρα Λακεδαιμονίους λέγεις καὶ Λυκούργον τὸν νομοθέτην;

ΣΩ. Ἀλλὰ ταῦτά γε οὐδέπω ἴσως ἔτη τριακόσια ἢ ὀλίγω τούτων πλείω. ἀλλὰ τούτων τῶν νομίμων

D τὰ βέλτιστα πόθεν ἦκει; οἶσθα;

ΕΤ. Φασί γ' ἐκ Κρήτης.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν οὗτοι παλαιοτάτοις νόμοις χρῶνται τῶν Ἑλλήνων;

ΕΤ. Ναί.

ΣΩ. Οἶσθα οὖν, τίνες τούτων ἀγαθοὶ βασιλεῖς ἦσαν; Μίνως τε καὶ Ῥαδάμανθυς, οἱ Διὸς καὶ Εὐρώπης παῖδες, ὧν οἶδε εἰσὶν οἱ νόμοι.

ΕΤ. Ῥαδάμανθύν γέ φασιν, ὧ Σώκρατες, δίκαιον ἄνδρα, τὸν δὲ Μίνων ἄγριόν τινα καὶ χαλεπὸν καὶ ἄδικον.

ΣΩ. Ἀττικόν, ὧ βέλτιστε, λέγεις μῦθον καὶ τραγικόν.

E ΕΤ. Τί δέ; οὐ ταῦτα λέγεται περὶ Μίνω;

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν ὑπό γε Ὀμήρου καὶ Ἡσιόδου· καί-  
τοι γε πιθανώτεροί εἰσιν ἢ σύμπαντες οἱ τραγωδο-  
ποιοί, ὧν σὺ ἀκούων ταῦτα λέγεις.

ΕΤ. Ἀλλὰ τί μὴν οὗτοι περὶ Μίνω λέγουσιν;

ΣΩ. Ἐγὼ δὴ σοι ἐρῶ, ἵνα μὴ καὶ σὺ ὥσπερ οἱ

## MINOS

COM. That is so.

SOC. And who by tradition has shown himself a good lawgiver among the ancient kings, so that to this day his ordinances remain, as being divine ?

COM. I cannot think.

SOC. Do you not know which of the Greeks use the most ancient laws ?

COM. Do you mean the Spartans, and Lycurgus the lawgiver ?

SOC. Why, that is a matter, I daresay, of less than three hundred years ago, or but a little more. But whence is it that the best of those ordinances come ?

Do you know ?

COM. From Crete, so they say.

SOC. Then the people there use the most ancient laws in Greece ?

COM. Yes.

SOC. Then do you know who were their good kings ? Minos and Rhadamanthus, the sons of Zeus and Europa ; those laws were theirs.

COM. Rhadamanthus, they do say, Socrates, was a just man ; but Minos was a savage sort of person, harsh and unjust.

SOC. Your tale, my excellent friend, is a fiction of Attic tragedy.

COM. What ! Is not this the tradition about Minos ?

SOC. Not in Homer and Hesiod ; and yet they are more to be believed than all the tragedians together, from whom you heard your tale.

COM. Well, and what, pray, is their tale about Minos ?

SOC. I will tell you, in order that you may not share the impiety of the multitude : for there cannot

πολλοὶ ἀσεβῆς. οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅ τι τούτου ἀσεβέστερόν ἐστιν οὐδ' ὅ τι χρῆ μᾶλλον εὐλαβεῖσθαι, πλὴν εἰς θεοὺς καὶ λόγῳ καὶ ἔργῳ ἐξαμαρτάνειν, δεύτερον δὲ εἰς τοὺς θείους ἀνθρώπους· ἀλλὰ πάνυ πολλὴν χρῆ προμήθειαν ποιεῖσθαι αἰεὶ, ὅταν μέλλῃς  
 319 ἄνδρα ψέξειν ἢ ἐπαινέσεσθαι, μὴ οὐκ ὀρθῶς εἴπῃς. τούτου καὶ ἔνεκα χρῆ μαθάνειν διαγιγνώσκειν χρηστοὺς καὶ πονηροὺς ἄνδρας. νεμεσᾶ γὰρ ὁ θεός, ὅταν τις ψέγῃ τὸν ἑαυτῷ ὅμοιον ἢ ἐπαινῇ τὸν ἑαυτῷ ἐναντίως ἔχοντα· ἔστι δ' οὗτος ὁ ἀγαθός. μὴ γάρ τι οἴου λίθους μὲν εἶναι ἱεροὺς καὶ ξύλα καὶ ὄρνεα καὶ ὄφεις, ἀνθρώπους δὲ μή· ἀλλὰ πάντων τούτων ἱερώτατόν ἐστιν ἄνθρωπος ὁ ἀγαθός, καὶ μιαιώτατον ὁ πονηρός.

Ἦδη οὖν καὶ περὶ Μίνῳ, ὡς αὐτὸν Ὅμηρός τε  
 Β καὶ Ἡσίοδος ἐγκωμιάζουσι, τούτου ἔνεκα φράσω, ἵνα μὴ ἄνθρωπος ὢν ἀνθρώπου εἰς ἥρω Διὸς υἱὸν λόγῳ ἐξαμαρτάνῃς. Ὅμηρος γὰρ περὶ Κρήτης λέγων, ὅτι πολλοὶ ἄνθρωποι ἐν αὐτῇ εἰσὶ καὶ ἐνενήκοντα πόλεις, τῆσι δέ, φησίν,

ἐνὶ Κνωσὸς μεγάλη πόλις, ἔνθα τε Μίνῳς  
 ἐνένερος βασίλευε Διὸς μεγάλου ὀαριστῆς.

Γ ἔστιν οὖν τοῦτο Ὅμηρου ἐγκώμιον εἰς Μίνῳν διὰ βραχέων εἰρημένον, οἷον οὐδ' εἰς ἓνα τῶν ἡρώων ἐποίησεν Ὅμηρος. ὅτι μὲν γὰρ ὁ Ζεὺς σοφιστῆς ἐστὶ καὶ ἡ τέχνη αὕτη παγκάλη ἐστί, πολλαχοῦ καὶ ἄλλοθι δηλοῖ, ἀτὰρ καὶ ἐνταῦθα. λέγει γὰρ τὸν Μίνῳν συγγίγνεσθαι ἐνάτῳ ἔτει τῷ Διὶ ἐν λόγοις καὶ φοιτᾶν παιδευθησόμενον ὡς ὑπὸ σοφιστοῦ ὄντος τοῦ Διός. ὅτι οὖν τοῦτο τὸ γέρας οὐκ ἔστιν

<sup>1</sup> Minos and Rhadamanthus were sons of Zeus by Europa.

## MINOS

conceivably be anything more impious or more to be guarded against than being mistaken in word and deed with regard to the gods, and after them, with regard to divine men; you must take very great precaution, whenever you are about to blame or praise a man, so as not to speak incorrectly. For this reason you must learn to distinguish honest and dishonest men: for God feels resentment when one blames a man who is like himself, or praises a man who is the opposite; and the former is the good man. For you must not suppose that while stocks and stones and birds and snakes are sacred, men are not; nay, the good man is the most sacred of all these things, and the wicked man is the most defiled.

So if I now proceed to relate how Minos is eulogized by Homer and Hesiod, my purpose is to prevent you, a man sprung from a man, from making a mistake in regard to a hero who was the son of Zeus.<sup>1</sup> For Homer,<sup>2</sup> in telling of Crete that there were in it many men and "ninety cities," says:

And amongst them is the mighty city of Cnossos, where Minos was king, having colloquy<sup>3</sup> with mighty Zeus in the ninth year.

Now here in Homer we have a eulogy of Minos, briefly expressed, such as the poet never composed for a single one of the heroes. For that Zeus is a sophist, and that sophistry is a highly honourable art, he makes plain in many other places, and particularly here. For he says that Minos consorted and discoursed with Zeus in the ninth year, and went regularly to be educated by Zeus as though he were a sophist. And the fact that Homer assigned this privilege of having been educated by Zeus to no one

<sup>2</sup> *Od.* xix. 179.

<sup>3</sup> *δαριστήρ* means "one who has familiar converse" (*δαρος*).

ὅτω ἀπένειμεν Ὅμηρος τῶν ἡρώων, ὑπὸ Διὸς πεπαιδεῦσθαι, ἄλλω ἢ Μίνω, τοῦτ' ἔστιν ἔπαινος  
 D θαυμαστός. καὶ Ὀδυσσεΐας ἐν Νεκυίᾳ δικάζοντα χρυσοῦν σκῆπτρον ἔχοντα πεποίηκε τὸν Μίνων, οὐ τὸν Ῥαδάμανθυν· Ῥαδάμανθυν δὲ οὔτ' ἐνταῦθα δικάζοντα πεποίηκεν οὔτε συγγιγνόμενον τῷ Διὶ οὐδαμοῦ· διὰ ταῦτά φημ' ἐγὼ Μίνων ἀπάντων μάλιστα ὑπὸ Ὁμήρου ἐγκεκωμιάσθαι. τὸ γὰρ Διὸς ὄντα παῖδα μόνον ὑπὸ Διὸς πεπαιδεῦσθαι οὐκ ἔχει ὑπερβολὴν ἐπαίνου.

Τοῦτο γὰρ σημαίνει τὸ ἔπος τὸ

ἐννέωρος βασίλευε Διὸς μεγάλου ὀαριστῆς,

E συνουσιαστὴν τοῦ Διὸς εἶναι τὸν Μίνων. οἱ γὰρ ὄαροι λόγοι εἰσὶ, καὶ ὀαριστῆς συνουσιαστῆς ἔστιν ἐν λόγοις. ἐφοίτα οὖν δι' ἐνάτου ἔτους εἰς τὸ τοῦ Διὸς ἄντρον ὁ Μίνως, τὰ μὲν μαθησόμενος, τὰ δὲ ἀποδειξόμενος, ἃ τῇ προτέρᾳ ἐννεετηρίδι ἐμεμαθήκει παρὰ τοῦ Διὸς. εἰσὶ δὲ οἱ ὑπολαμβάνουσι τὸν ὀαριστὴν συμπότην καὶ συμπαιστὴν εἶναι τοῦ Διὸς· ἀλλὰ τῷδε ἂν τις τεκμηρίω χρῶτο, ὅτι  
 320 οὐδὲν λέγουσιν οἱ οὕτως ὑπολαμβάνοντες. πολλῶν γὰρ ὄντων ἀνθρώπων, καὶ Ἑλλήνων καὶ βαρβάρων, οὐκ ἔστιν οἵτινες ἀπέχονται συμποσίων καὶ ταύτης τῆς παιδιᾶς, οὗ ἔστιν οἶνος, ἄλλοι ἢ Κρηῆτες καὶ Λακεδαιμόνιοι δεύτεροι, μαθόντες παρὰ Κρητῶν. ἐν Κρήτῃ δὲ εἰς οὗτός ἐστι τῶν ἄλλων νόμων, οὓς Μίνως ἔθηκε, μὴ συμπίνειν ἀλλήλοις εἰς μέθην. καίτοι δῆλον ὅτι, ἃ ἐνόμιζε καλὰ εἶναι, ταῦτα νόμιμα ἔθηκε καὶ τοῖς αὐτοῦ πολίταις. οὐ γὰρ που, ὥσπερ γε φαῦλος ἄνθρωπος,  
 B ὁ Μίνως ἐνόμιζε μὲν ἕτερα, ἐποίει δὲ ἄλλα παρ' ἃ

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among the heroes but Minos makes this a marvellous piece of praise. And in the Ghost-raising in the *Odyssey*<sup>1</sup> he has described Minos as judging with a golden sceptre in his hand, but not Rhadamanthus : Rhadamanthus he has neither described here as judging nor anywhere as consorting with Zeus ; wherefore I say that Minos above all persons has been eulogized by Homer. For to have been the son of Zeus, and to have been the only one who was educated by Zeus, is praise unsurpassable.

For the meaning of the verse—" was king having colloquy with mighty Zeus in the ninth year"—is that Minos was a disciple of Zeus. For colloquies are discourses, and he who has colloquy is a disciple by means of discourse. So every ninth year Minos repaired to the cave of Zeus, to learn some things, and to show his knowledge of others that he had learnt from Zeus in the preceding nine years. Some there are who suppose that he who has colloquy is a cup-companion and fellow-jester of Zeus : but one may take the following as a proof that they who suppose so are babblers. For of all the many nations of men, both Greek and foreign, the only people who refrain from drinking-bouts and the jesting that occurs where there is wine, are the Cretans, and after them the Spartans, who learnt it from the Cretans. In Crete it is one of their laws which Minos ordained that they are not to drink with each other to intoxication. And yet it is evident that the things he thought honourable were what he ordained as lawful for his people as well. For surely Minos did not, like an inferior person, think one thing and do

<sup>1</sup> *Od.* xi. 569.

ἐνόμιζεν· ἀλλ' ἦν αὕτη ἡ συνουσία, ὥσπερ ἐγὼ λέγω, διὰ λόγων ἐπὶ παιδείᾳ εἰς ἀρετήν. ὅθεν δὴ καὶ τοὺς νόμους τούτους ἔθηκε τοῖς αὐτοῦ πολίταις, δι' οὓς ἢ τε Κρήτη τὸν πάντα χρόνον εὐδαιμονεῖ καὶ Λακεδαιμόνων, ἀφ' οὗ ἤρξατο τούτοις χρῆσθαι, ἅτε θείοις οὔσι.

Ῥαδάμανθους δὲ ἀγαθὸς μὲν ἦν ἀνὴρ· ἐπεπαίδευτο γὰρ ὑπὸ τοῦ Μίνω· ἐπεπαίδευτο μέντοι οὐχ C ὄλην τὴν βασιλικὴν τέχνην, ἀλλ' ὑπηρεσίαν τῇ βασιλικῇ, ὅσον ἐπιστατεῖν ἐν τοῖς δικαστηρίοις· ὅθεν καὶ δικαστῆς ἀγαθὸς ἐλέχθη εἶναι. νομοφύλακι γὰρ αὐτῷ ἐχρήτη ὁ Μίνως κατὰ τὸ ἄστυ, τὰ δὲ κατὰ τὴν ἄλλην Κρήτην τῷ Τάλῳ. ὁ γὰρ Τάλως τρεῖς περιήει τοῦ ἐνιαυτοῦ κατὰ τὰς κώμας, φυλάττων τοὺς νόμους ἐν αὐταῖς, ἐν χαλκοῖς γραμματείοις ἔχων γεγραμμένους τοὺς νόμους, ὅθεν χαλκοῦς ἐκλήθη. εἶρηκε δὲ καὶ Ἡσιόδος ἀδελφὰ D τούτων εἰς τὸν Μίνων. μνησθεῖς γὰρ αὐτοῦ τοῦ ὀνόματος φησὶν

ὃς βασιλεύτατος γένετο θνητῶν βασιλῆων,  
καὶ πλείστων ἦνασσε περικτιόνων ἀνθρώπων,  
Ζηνὸς ἔχων σκῆπτρον· τῷ καὶ πολέων βασιλεὺς.

καὶ οὗτος λέγει τὸ τοῦ Διὸς σκῆπτρον οὐδὲν ἄλλο ἢ τὴν παιδείαν τὴν τοῦ Διός, ἣ εὖθινε τὴν Κρήτην.

ΕΤ. Διὰ τί οὖν ποτε, ὦ Σώκρατες, αὕτη ἡ φήμη κατεσκευάσται τοῦ Μίνω ὡς ἀπαιδευτοῦ E τινὸς καὶ χαλεποῦ ὄντος;

ΣΩ. Δι' ὃ καὶ σύ, ὦ βέλτιστε, ἐὰν σωφρονῆς,

<sup>1</sup> Talos, the brazen man who was given to Minos by Zeus, is described by Apoll. Rhod. iv. 1639 foll., and Apollodorus i. 9. 26 (where see Sir J. G. Frazer's note in this series).



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another, different from what he thought : no, this intercourse, as I say, was held by means of discussion for education in virtue. Wherefore he ordained for his people these very laws, which have made Crete happy through the length of time, and Sparta happy also, since she began to use them ; for they are divine.

Rhadamanthus was a good man indeed, for he had been educated by Minos ; he had, however, been educated, not in the whole of the kingly art, but in one subsidiary to the kingly, enough for presiding in law courts ; so that he was spoken of as a good judge. For Minos used him as guardian of the law in the city, and Talos<sup>1</sup> as the same for the rest of Crete. For Talos thrice a year made a round of the villages, guarding the laws in them, by holding their laws inscribed on brazen tablets, which gave him his name of "brazen." And what Hesiod<sup>2</sup> also has said of Minos is akin to this. For after mentioning him by name he remarks—

Who was most kingly of mortal kings, and lorded it over more neighbouring folk than any, holding the sceptre of Zeus : therewith it was that he ruled the cities as king.

And by the sceptre of Zeus he means nothing else than the education that he had of Zeus, whereby he directed Crete.

COM. Then how has it ever come about, Socrates, that this report is spread abroad of Minos, as an uneducated and harsh-tempered person ?

SOC. Because of something that will make both you,

<sup>2</sup> The passage quoted does not occur in our text of Hesiod, nor is it quoted by any other writer. The metre of the first line would be improved if we could read βασιλευτότατος, from the βασιλευτός used by Aristotle, *Pol.* iii, 17, 1.

εὐλαβήσει καὶ ἄλλος πᾶς ἀνὴρ, ὅτω μέλει τοῦ  
 εὐδόκιμον εἶναι, μηδέποτε ἀπεχθάνεσθαι ἀνδρὶ  
 ποιητικῶ μηδενί. οἱ γὰρ ποιηταὶ μέγα δύνανται  
 εἰς δόξαν, ἐφ' ὅπότερ' ἂν ποιῶσιν εἰς τοὺς ἀνθρώ-  
 πους, ἢ εὐλογοῦντες ἢ κατηγοροῦντες. ὁ δὲ καὶ  
 ἐξήμαρτεν ὁ Μίνως, πολεμήσας τῆδε τῇ πόλει, ἐν  
 ἣ ἄλλη τε πολλὴ σοφία ἐστὶ καὶ ποιηταὶ παντοδαποὶ  
 τῆς τε ἄλλης ποιήσεως καὶ τραγωδίας. ἡ δὲ  
 321 τραγωδία ἐστὶ παλαιὸν ἐνθάδε, οὐχ ὡς οἴονται ἀπὸ  
 Θέσπιδος ἀρξάμενη οὐδ' ἀπὸ Φρυνίχου, ἀλλ' εἰ  
 θέλεις ἐννοῆσαι, πάνυ παλαιὸν αὐτὸ εὐρήσεις ὃν  
 τῆσδε τῆς πόλεως εὔρημα. ἔστι δὲ τῆς ποιήσεως  
 δημοτερέστατόν τε καὶ ψυχαγωγικώτατον ἡ  
 τραγωδία· ἐν ἣ δὲ καὶ ἐντείνοντες ἡμεῖς τὸν  
 Μίνων τιμωρούμεθα ἀνθ' ὧν ἡμᾶς ἠνάγκασε τοὺς  
 δασμοὺς τελεῖν ἐκείνους. τοῦτο οὖν ἐξήμαρτεν ὁ  
 Μίνως, ἀπεχθόμενος ἡμῖν, ὅθεν δὲ, ὁ σὺ ἐρωτᾶς,  
 κακοδοξότερος γέγονεν. ἐπεὶ ὅτι γε ἀγαθὸς ἦν  
 Β καὶ νόμιμος, ὅπερ καὶ ἐν τοῖς πρόσθεν ἐλέγομεν,  
 νομεὺς ἀγαθός, τοῦτο μέγιστον σημεῖον, ὅτι  
 ἀκίνητοι αὐτοῦ οἱ νόμοι εἰσίν, ἅτε τοῦ ὄντος περὶ  
 πόλεως οἰκίσεως ἐξευρόντος εὐ τὴν ἀλήθειαν.

ΕΤ. Δοκεῖς μοι, ὦ Σώκρατες, εἰκότα τὸν λόγον  
 εἰρηκέναι.

ΣΩ. Οὐκοῦν εἰ ἐγὼ ἀληθῆ λέγω, δοκοῦσί σοι  
 παλαιοτάτοις Κρήτες οἱ Μίνω καὶ Ῥαδαμάνθυνος  
 πολῖται νόμοις χρῆσθαι;

<sup>1</sup> This is the meaning most probably intended, from an imperfect understanding of ἐντείνειν ("put some story into verse, or accompany it with music") in Plato, *Phaedo* 60 D; *Protag.* 326 B. Minos was represented as a harsh despot in Euripides' *Cretans*, and probably also in other lost plays.

<sup>2</sup> The legend was that Minos defeated the Athenians in

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if you are wise, my excellent friend, and everybody else who cares to have a good reputation, beware of ever quarrelling with any man of a poetic turn. For poets have great influence over opinion, according as they create it in the minds of men by either commending or vilifying. And this was the mistake that Minos made, in waging war on this city of ours, which besides all its various culture has poets of every kind, and especially those who write tragedy. Now tragedy is a thing of ancient standing here; it did not begin, as people suppose, from Thespis or from Phrynichus, but if you will reflect, you will find it is a very ancient invention of our city. Tragedy is the most popularly delightful and soul-enthraling branch of poetry: in it, accordingly, we get Minos on the rack of verse,<sup>1</sup> and thus avenge ourselves for that tribute which he compelled us to pay.<sup>2</sup> This, then, was the mistake that Minos made—his quarrel with us—and hence it is that, as you said in your question, he has fallen more and more into evil repute. For that he was a good and law-abiding person, as we stated in what went before—a good *apportioner*—is most convincingly shown by the fact that his laws are unshaken, since they were made by one who discovered aright the truth of reality in regard to the management of a state.

com. In my opinion, Socrates, your statement is a probable one.

soc. Then if what I say is true, do you consider that the Cretan people of Minos and Rhadamanthus use the most ancient laws?

war and compelled them to send a regular tribute of seven youths and seven maidens to be devoured by the Minotaur in the Cretan labyrinth.

ΕΤ. Φαίνονται.

ΣΩ. Οὗτοι ἄρα τῶν παλαιῶν ἄριστοι νομοθέται  
 C γεγόνασι, νομῆς τε καὶ ποιμένες ἀνδρῶν, ὥσπερ  
 καὶ Ὅμηρος ἔφη ποιμένα λαῶν εἶναι τὸν ἀγαθὸν  
 στρατηγόν.

ΕΤ. Πάνυ μὲν οὖν.

ΣΩ. Φέρε δὴ πρὸς Διὸς φιλίου· εἴ τις ἡμᾶς  
 ἔροιτο, ὃ τῷ σώματι ἀγαθὸς νομοθέτης τε καὶ  
 νομεὺς τί ἐστὶ ταῦτα ἃ διανεμῶν ἐπὶ τὸ σῶμα  
 βέλτιον αὐτὸ ποιεῖ, εἴπομεν ἂν καλῶς τε καὶ διὰ  
 βραχέων ἀποκρινόμενοι, ὅτι τροφήν τε καὶ πόρους,  
 τῇ μὲν αὖξων, τοῖς δὲ γυμνάζων καὶ συνιστὰς [τὸ  
 σῶμα]<sup>1</sup> αὐτό.

ΕΤ. Ὅρθῶς γε.

D ΣΩ. Εἰ οὖν δὴ μετὰ τοῦτο ἔροιτο ἡμᾶς, τί δὲ δὴ  
 ποτε ἐκεῖνά ἐστὶν <ἃ><sup>2</sup> ὃ ἀγαθὸς νομοθέτης τε καὶ  
 νομεὺς διανεμῶν ἐπὶ τὴν ψυχὴν βελτίω αὐτὴν ποιεῖ,  
 τί ἂν ἀποκρινάμενοι οὐκ ἂν αἰσχυνθεῖμεν καὶ ὑπὲρ  
 ἡμῶν αὐτῶν καὶ τῆς ἡλικίας αὐτῶν;

ΕΤ. Οὐκέτι τοῦτ' ἔχω εἰπεῖν.

ΣΩ. Ἄλλὰ μέντοι αἰσχρόν γε τῇ ψυχῇ ἡμῶν  
 ἐστὶν ἐκατέρου, τὰ μὲν ἐν αὐταῖς φαίνεσθαι μὴ  
 εἰδυίας, ἐν οἷς αὐταῖς ἔνεστι καὶ τὸ ἀγαθὸν καὶ τὸ  
 φλαῦρον, τὰ δὲ τοῦ σώματος καὶ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων  
 ἐσκέφθαι.

<sup>1</sup> τὸ σῶμα seclusi.

<sup>2</sup> ἃ om. mss.

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COM. I do.

SOC. So these have shown themselves the best law-givers among men of ancient times—apportioners and shepherds of men; just as Homer called the good general a “shepherd of the folk.”

COM. Quite so, indeed.

SOC. Come then, in good friendship’s name: if someone should ask us what it is that the good law-giver and apportioner for the body distributes to it when he makes it better, we should say, if we were to make a correct and brief answer, that it was food and labour; the former to strengthen, and the latter to exercise and brace it.

COM. And we should be right.

SOC. And if he then proceeded to ask us—And what might that be which the good lawgiver and apportioner distributes to the soul to make it better?—what would be our answer if we would avoid being ashamed of ourselves and our years?

COM. This time I am unable to say.

SOC. But indeed it is shameful for the soul of either of us to be found ignorant of those things within it on which its good and abject states depend, while it has studied those that pertain to the body and the rest.



# EPINOMIS

## INTRODUCTION TO THE *EPINOMIS*

THE name of this short dialogue denotes that it was intended to serve as an appendix to Plato's *Laws*. It is improbable, however, that Plato would have appended this scanty and unsatisfactory chapter to that comprehensive treatise, instead of correcting and expanding the latter in many places where it would apparently have benefited by the author's revision. And when we consider the *Epinomis* in detail, we very soon become aware of contact with an inferior mind, which feebly strays and stumbles among the last physical and metaphysical speculations of Plato. The *Epinomis* appears to have been grouped with the *Laws* and the *Minos*, to form a set of three, by Aristophanes of Byzantium, the librarian at Alexandria, about 200 B.C. Already a number of dialogues had been attributed to Plato which by that time were commonly rejected as spurious: many forgeries were doubtless produced to meet the book-collecting zeal of the Ptolemies in the third century B.C., and the *Epinomis*, like the *Minos*, contrived to pass muster. Its inclusion here with the Platonic writings may be justified, partly as providing a curious illustration of such forgery, and of the superficial acquaintance with Plato's genius and manner which must account for the mistake made by the Alexandrian scholars in accepting it as genuine; but it also has some undoubted merits of its own—in its treatment of astronomical and mathematical



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theories and its earnest, if rather vague, manner of exposition—which deserve the attention of Platonic students.

The primary object of the work is to supplement the passage at the end of the *Laws* (xii. 966-7), where the training of the Nocturnal Council is briefly sketched. The speakers are the same—the Athenian stranger, Megillus the Spartan, and Cleinias the Cretan—and they are continuing the conversation that they had the day before, as described at the beginning of the *Laws* (i. 625), on a walk from Cnossos to the temple of Zeus beneath Mount Ida in Crete. As before, the Athenian does most of the speaking. He expounds his scheme of education, consisting of arithmetic, geometry, and astronomy: the last of these is to be a kind of theology, involving a study of the cosmic soul or life-principle, and of the various degrees of divine beings (973-983); the writer here seems to have had his eye on the *Timæus*. We proceed to consider the special kind of mathematics recommended in *Laws*, vii. 818-820, under the heads of arithmetic and geometry as applied to astronomy (990-992).

Through the verbose and ill-connected exposition of the Athenian one impression emerges clearly enough—that the author is intent on urging the importance of astronomy as the means to true wisdom. We need only read with attention the concluding pages of the *Laws* to realize how much more profound and ample is the wisdom which Plato inculcates, and how far below even his last composition, betraying, as it does, some decline in his powers of reasoning and expression, is the hardy attempt of this zealous but small-minded imitator.

# ΕΠΙΝΟΜΙΣ

[Η ΝΥΚΤΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΣΤΑΛΟΓΟΣ Η ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΟΣ]

ΤΑ ΤΟΥΤ ΔΙΑΛΟΓΟΥ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ

ΚΛΕΙΝΙΑΣ ΚΡΗΣ, ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ ΞΕΝΟΣ, ΜΕΓΙΛΛΟΣ  
ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΟΣ

St. II.  
p. 973

ΚΛ. Πρὸς μὲν τὸ τῆς ὁμολογίας ἤκομεν ἅπαντες ὀρθῶς, ὦ ξένε, τρεῖς ὄντες, ἐγὼ καὶ σὺ καὶ Μέγιλλος ὄδε, τὸ τῆς φρονήσεως ἐπισκεψόμενοι τίνι ποτὲ χρὴ λόγῳ διεξελθεῖν, ὃ τὴν ἀνθρωπίνην ἔξιν φαμέν, ὅταν διανοηθῆ, κάλλιστ' ἔχειν ποιεῖν πρὸς φρόνησιν ὅσην δυνατὸν ἀνθρώπῳ σχεῖν. τὰ μὲν γὰρ ἄλλα, ὡς φαμεν, ἅπαντα διεξήλθομεν ὅσα ἦν Β περὶ νόμων θέσιν· ὃ δὲ μέγιστον εὐρεῖν τε καὶ εἰπεῖν, τί ποτε μαθὼν θνητὸς ἀνθρώπος σοφὸς ἂν εἴη, τοῦτο οὔτε εἶπομεν οὔτε ἠύρομεν. νῦν δὲ πειρώμεθα τοῦτο μὴ καταλιπεῖν· σχεδὸν γὰρ ἀτελὲς ἂν πράξαιμεν οὐ χάριν ἅπαντες ὠρμήσαμεν, ὡς φανερὰ ποιήσοντες ἐξ ἀρχῆς μέχρι τέλους.

ΑΘ. ὦ φίλε Κλεινία, καλῶς μὲν λέγεις, ἄτοπον

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* describing the special training of the members of the Nocturnal Council of the *Laws*, xii. 961 ff.: this Council of the projected Cretan colony, corresponding to the Athenian

# EPINOMIS

[OR NOCTURNAL COUNCIL <sup>1</sup>;  
OR PHILOSOPHER]

## CHARACTERS

CLEINIAS OF CRETE, ATHENIAN VISITOR,  
MEGILLUS OF SPARTA

CL. True to our agreement, good sir, we have come all three—you and I and Megillus here—to consider in what terms we ought to describe that part of understanding which we say produces, when it so intends, the most excellent disposition of the human being for wisdom which is possible for man. For we claim that we have described all the other matters connected with law-giving; but the most important thing for us to discover and state—what it is that mortal man should learn in order to be wise—this we have neither stated nor discovered. Let us, however, now try to make good this defect: else we shall practically leave incomplete the quest on which we all set out, with the purpose of making our subject clear from beginning to end.

ATH. My dear Cleinias, you are quite right, yet I Areopagus, was to consist of high magistrates and retired officials, and hold its meetings at night. The characters and the scene (Crete) are the same as those of the *Laws*.

μὴν ἀκούσεσθαι σε λόγον οἶμαι, καὶ τινα τρόπον οὐκ ἄτοπον αὐτῷ. πολλοὶ γὰρ δὴ προστυχεῖς τῷ βίῳ  
 C γιγνόμενοι τὸν αὐτὸν λόγον φέρουσιν, ὡς οὐκ ἔσται μακάριον τὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων γένος οὐδ' εὐδαιμον. ἔπου δὴ καὶ σύνιδε, ἂν σοι δοκῶ καγὼ μετ' αὐτῶν καλῶς τοῦ τοιοῦτου πέρι λέγειν. οὐ φημι εἶναι δυνατόν ἀνθρώποις μακαρίοις τε καὶ εὐδαίμοσι γενέσθαι πλήν ὀλίγων· μέχρι περ ἂν ζῶμεν τοῦτο διορίζομαι· καλὴ δὲ ἐλπίς τελευτήσαντι τυχεῖν ἀπάντων, ὧν ἔνεκά τις προθυμοῖτ' ἂν ζῶν τε ὡς κάλλιστ' ἂν ζῆν κατὰ δύναμιν καὶ τελευτήσας τελευτῆς τοιαύτης τυχεῖν. λέγω δ'  
 D οὐδὲν σοφόν, ἀλλ' ὅπερ ἅπαντες Ἕλληνές τε καὶ βάρβαροι γινώσκομέν τινα τρόπον, ὡς ἐξ ἀρχῆς τὸ γενέσθαι χαλεπὸν ἅπαντι ζῶν· πρῶτον μὲν τὸ μετασχεῖν τῆς τῶν κνουμένων ἕξεως, ἔπειτ' αὐτὸ τὸ γίγνεσθαι, καὶ ἔτι τὸ τρέφεσθαι καὶ παιδεύεσθαι, διὰ πόνων μυρίων ταῦτα γίγνεσθαι σύμπαντα, ὡς  
 974 φάμεν ἅπαντες. καὶ χρόνος βραχὺς ἂν τις εἴη πρὸς λογισμὸν μὴ τι<sup>1</sup> τῶν μοχθηρῶν, ἀλλ' ὁ πᾶς ἂν ὑπολάβοι μέτριον. οὗτος δὲ σχεδὸν ἀναπνοὴν δοκεῖ ποιεῖν τινα κατὰ μέσον πη βίον τὸν ἀνθρώπινον· ταχύ γε μὴν ἐπιλαβὸν γῆρας ὄντιν οὖν ποιήσεται ἂν μή ποτ' ἐθελῆσαι πάλιν ἀναβιῶναι, λογισάμενον τὸν βεβιωμένον ἑαυτῷ βίον, ὅστις μὴ τυγχάνει παιδικῆς δόξης μεστὸς ὢν. τούτων δὴ τί ποτέ μοι τεκμήριον; ὅτι πέφυκε ταύτη τὸ νῦν ζητούμενον  
 B τῷ λόγῳ. ζητοῦμεν δὲ δὴ, τίνα τρόπον σοφοὶ γενησόμεθα, ὡς οὔσης τινὸς ἐκάστοις ταύτης τῆς δυνάμεως· ἢ δὲ φυγῇ φεύγει τότε, ὅταν τις

<sup>1</sup> τι cod. Voss.: τοι MSS.

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think you are about to hear a strange statement ; and, in a sense, one that is not so strange either. For many on becoming acquainted with life have the same account to give—that the human race will not be blessed or happy. So follow me now and apprehend if you conceive me, as well as them, to be giving a proper account of this matter. I say it is impossible for men to be blessed and happy, except a few ; that is, so long as we are living : I limit it to that. But one may rightly hope to attain after death all the things for whose sake one may strive both in life to live as nobly as one can and in death to find a noble end.<sup>1</sup> What I say is no subtle doctrine, but a thing that all of us, Greeks and foreigners alike, in some way perceive—that from the beginning existence is difficult for every live creature : first, partaking of the state of things conceived, then again, being born, and further, being reared and educated—all these processes involve a vast amount of toil, we all agree. And our time must be a short one, I do not say in the reckoning of the wretched, but on any supposition of what is tolerable. It does seem to give just a breathing-space about the middle of human life : yet swiftly old age is upon us, and must make any of us loth ever to live our life again, when one reckons over the life one has lived—unless one happens to be a bundle of childish notions. And what, pray, is my evidence for this ? It is that such is the nature of the matter now under inquiry in our discussion. We are inquiring, you know, in what way we shall become wise, presuming that each of us has this power in some sort or other : but it evades and escapes us as soon as we

<sup>1</sup> The translation does not attempt to reproduce the alliteration of the last four words of this sentence.

πρὸς τινα φρόνησιν ἢ τῶν λεγομένων τεχνῶν ἢ φρονήσεων ἢ τινῶν ἄλλων τοιούτων ὡς οἴομεθα ἐπιστημῶν, ὡς ἀξίας τούτων οὐδεμιᾶς οὔσης ἐπὶ κλησιν ρηθῆναι τῆς περὶ ταῦτα σοφίας τὰνθρώπινα, τῆς δὲ ψυχῆς σφόδρα πεποιθυίας καὶμαντευομένης, ὡς οὔσης αὐτῇ κατὰ τινα φύσιν ταύτης,  
 C τίς δ' ἔστι καὶ πότε καὶ πῶς, οὐ πάνυ δυναμένης ἐξευρίσκειν. ἄρ' οὐ τούτῳ σφόδρα προσείχ' ἡμῶν ἢ περὶ σοφίαν ἀπορία καὶ ζήτησις, πλείων τῆς ἐλπίδος ἐκάστῳ γιγνομένη τῶν ὅσοι ἐν ἡμῖν δυνατοὶ γίνονται φρονίμως αὐτοὺς ἄλλους τε ἐξετάσαι συμφώνως διὰ λόγων πάντων καὶ πάντη λεγομένων; ταῦτ' οὐχ οὕτως ἢ ταύτῃ συμφήσομεν ἔχειν;

κλ. Συμφήσομεν ἐπ' ἐλπίδι σοι ἴσως ταῦτ', ὦ  
 D ξένε, τῇ μετὰ σοῦ κατὰ χρόνον ἂν γενομένη, δοξάσαι περὶ αὐτῶν εἰσαυθίς τὸ ἀληθέστατον.

αθ. Τὰς ἄλλας τοίνυν, ὅσαι ἐπιστήμαι μὲν εἰσι λεγόμεναι, σοφὸν δὲ οὐκ ἀποτελοῦσι τὸν λαμβάνοντά τε αὐτάς καὶ ἔχοντα, πρῶτον διεξιτέον, ὅπως ταύτας ἐκποδῶν θέμενοι πειρώμεθα ἐκείνας ὧν δεόμεθα παραθέσθαι τε καὶ παραθέμενοι μανθάνειν.

Πρῶτον μὲν τοίνυν ὧν πρῶτον δεῖ θνητῷ γένει,  
 E ἴδωμεν ὡς εἰσὶ μὲν ἀναγκαιόταται σχεδὸν ἀληθῶς τε πρῶται, ὁ δὲ ἐπιστήμων αὐτῶν γιγνόμενος, εἰ καὶ κατ' ἀρχὰς ἔδοξέ τις εἶναι ποτε σοφός, οὐκουν νῦν γε οὔτε σοφὸς εἶναι δοξάζεται οὐκ εἶδη τε ἴσχει  
 975 μᾶλλον ἀπὸ τῆς τοιαύτης ἐπιστήμης. ἐροῦμεν δὴ αἶ τ' εἰσὶ καὶ ὅτι πᾶς ἀνὴρ αὐτάς, σχεδὸν ὅσοις ἀγῶν πρόκειται τοῦ δοκεῖν ὡς ἄριστον ἄνδρα συμβῆναι γενόμενον ἂν, φεύγει διὰ τὰς κτήσεις

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attempt any knowledge of reputed arts or knowledges or any of the ordinary sciences, as we suppose them to be ; for none of them is worthy to be called by the title of the wisdom that pertains to these human affairs. Yet the soul firmly believes and divines that in some fashion she has it, but what it is that she has, or when, or how, she is quite unable to discover. Is not this a fair picture of our puzzle about wisdom and the inquiry that we have to make—a greater one than any of us could expect who are found able to examine ourselves and others intelligently and consistently by every kind and manner of argument? Is the case not so, or shall we agree that so it is?

CL. We shall probably agree with you on that, my good sir, in the hope which in time you will surely give us of forming hereafter the truest opinion on these matters.

ATH. Then first we must go through the other sciences, which are reputed as such, but do not render him wise who acquires and possesses them ; in order that, having put them out of the way, we may try to bring forward those that we require, and having brought them forward, to learn them.

First, therefore, let us observe that while the sciences which are first needs of the human race are about the most necessary and truly the first, yet he who acquires a knowledge of them, though in the beginning he may have been regarded as wise in some sort, is now not reputed wise at all, but rather incurs reproach by the knowledge he has got. Now we must mention what they are, and that almost everyone who makes it his aim to be thought likely to prove himself in the end as good a man as possible avoids them, in order to gain the acquirements of under-

## PLATO

τῆς φρονήσεώς τε καὶ ἐπιτηδεύσεως. ἔστω δὴ πρῶτον μὲν ἢ τῆς ἀλληλοφαγίας τῶν ζώων ἡμᾶς τῶν μὲν, ὡς ὁ μῦθος ἐστι, τὸ παράπαν ἀποστήσασα, τῶν δὲ εἰς τὴν νόμιμον ἐδωδὴν καταστήσασα. ἴλεω δ' ἡμῖν οἱ προσθεν εἶησάν τε καὶ εἰσίν· οἷτινες μὲν γὰρ ὧν<sup>1</sup> ἐλέγομεν πρῶτοι χαιρέτωσαν· ἢ δ' οὖν  
 Β ἀλφίτων τε καὶ ἀλεύρων ποίησις ἅμα καὶ τροφή καλὴ μὲν καὶ ἀγαθὴ, σοφὸν δὲ ἄνδρα τελέως οὐκ ἐβελήσει ποτὲ ἀπεργάσασθαι· τοῦτο γὰρ αὐτό, ἢ τῆς ποιήσεως ἐπίκλησις, τῶν ποιουμένων αὐτῶν δυσχέριαν ἀπεργάζοιτ' ἄν. σχεδὸν δ' οὐδὲ χώρας συμπάσης γεωργία· οὐ γὰρ τέχνη ἀλλὰ φύσει κατὰ θεὸν πάντες φαινόμεθα γῆν μετακεχειρίσθαι. καὶ μὴν οὐδ' ἢ τῶν οἰκίσεών γε συνυφὴ καὶ σύμπασα οἰκοδομία καὶ σκευῶν πάντων ἀπεργαστικὴ, χαλ-  
 C κεία τε καὶ ἢ τῶν τεκτονικῶν καὶ πλαστικῶν καὶ πλεκτικῶν καὶ ἔτι συμπάντων ὀργάνων παρασκευή, δῆμῳ τὸ πρόσφορον ἔχουσα, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐπ' ἀρετῇ λεγομένη. καὶ μὴν οὐδ' ἢ σύμπασα θηρευτικὴ, πολλή περ καὶ τεχνικὴ γεγονυῖα, τό γε μεγαλοπρεπὲς σὺν τῷ σοφῷ οὐκ ἀποδίδωσι. οὐ μὴν οὐδὲ μαντικὴ γε οὐδ' ἐρμηνευτικὴ τὸ παράπαν· τὸ λεγόμενον γὰρ οἶδε μόνον, εἰ δ' ἀληθές, οὐκ ἔμαθεν.

“Οτε δὴ τὴν τῶν ἀναγκαίων ὀρώμεν κτήσιν διὰ  
 D τέχνης μὲν ἀπεργαζομένην, τούτων δὲ οὐδεμίαν οὐδένα σοφὸν ποιούσαν, τό γε μετὰ τοῦτο παιδιά τις ἂν λείποιτο, μιμητικὴ μὲν τὸ πλείστον, ἀλλ'

<sup>1</sup> ὧν Stallbaum: οὖν mss.

<sup>1</sup> “Some” means “men,” and “others” means “other animals.”

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* the first men who practised the eating of flesh.



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standing and study. So first let us take the practice among animate beings of eating each other, which, as the story goes, has made us refrain entirely from some, while it has settled us in the lawful eating of others.<sup>1</sup> May the men of old time be gracious to us, as they are: for we must take our leave of whatever men were the first of those we were just mentioning<sup>2</sup>; but at any rate the making of barley-meal and flour, with the sustenance thereof, is noble and good indeed, yet it is never like to produce a perfectly wise man. For this very name of *making* must produce<sup>3</sup> an irksomeness in the actual things that are made. Nor can it well be husbandry of land in general: for it is not by art but by a natural gift from Heaven, it seems, that we all have the earth put into our hands. Nor again is it the fabrication of dwellings and building in general, nor the production of all sorts of appliances—smiths' work, and the supply of carpenters', moulders', plaiters', and, in fine, all kinds of implements; for this is of advantage to the public, but is not accounted for virtue. Nor again the whole practice of hunting, which although grown extensive and a matter of skilled art, gives no return of magnificence with its wisdom. Nor surely can it be divination or interpretation<sup>4</sup> as a whole; for these only know what is said, but have not learnt whether it be true.

And now that we see that the acquisition of necessities is achieved by means of art, but that no such art makes any man wise, there may be some diversion remaining after this—imitative for the most part, but

<sup>3</sup> The word "produce" is repeated here in a strained sense of "declare," "indicate," or the like. The very idea of "making" implies a certain annoyance incompatible with perfect wisdom.

<sup>4</sup> *i.e.* of omens, heavenly signs, etc.

οὐδαμῇ σπουδαία. πολλοῖς μὲν γὰρ ὄργανοις μιμοῦνται, πολλοῖς δ' αὐτῶν τῶν σωμάτων οὐ πάντως εὐσχήμοσι μιμήμασι, τά τε κατὰ λόγους καὶ μούσαν πᾶσαν, καὶ ὄσων γραφικὴ μήτηρ, πολλῶν καὶ παντοίων ποικιλμάτων ἀποτελουμένων ἐν πολλοῖς ὑγροῖς καὶ ξηροῖς γένεσιν· ὧν σοφὸν οὐδένα εἰς οὐδὲν σπουδῇ τῇ μεγίστῃ δημιουργοῦντα ἢ μιμητικὴ παρέχεται.

**Ε** Πάντων δ' ἐξειργασμένων τὸ λοιπὸν βοήθεια γίγνοιτ' ἂν μυρία μυρίοις, ἢ μὲν μεγίστη τε καὶ εἰς πλείστα πολεμικὴ κληθεῖσα, στρατηγικὴ τέχνη, εὐδοκιμωτάτη πρὸς χρεῖαν, εὐτυχίας πλείστης δεομένη, μᾶλλον δὲ ἀνδρεία κατὰ φύσιν ἢ σοφία  
976 δεδομένη. ἦν δὲ καλοῦσι μὲν ἰατρικὴν, βοήθεια δέ που καὶ αὕτη σχεδὸν ὄσων ὦραι ψύχει καὶ καύματι ἀκαίρῳ καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς τοιούτοις ληίζονται τὴν τῶν ζώων φύσιν. εὐδόκιμον δὲ οὐδὲν τούτων εἰς σοφίαν τὴν ἀληθεστάτην· ἄμετρα γὰρ δόξαι φορεῖται τοπαζόμενα. βοηθοὺς δέ που καὶ τοὺς κυβερνήτας ἅμα καὶ τοὺς ναύτας ἐροῦμεν, καὶ τούτων ἄνδρα σοφὸν μηδένα τις ἡμᾶς παραμυθούμενος ἐξ ἀπάντων διαγγελλέτω· οὐ γὰρ ἂν εἰδείη τις

**Β** πνεύματος ὄργην οὐδὲ φιλίαν, ὃ προσφιλὲς ἀπάσῃ κυβερνητικῇ. καὶ μὴν οὐδ' ὅποσοι βοηθοὶ δίκαις ἐν τῇ τοῦ λέγειν ῥώμῃ φασὶ γίγνεσθαι, μνήμη καὶ τριβῇ δόξης ἤθεσι προσέχοντες τὸν νοῦν, ἀληθείας δὲ τῶν ὄντως δικαίων ἐκτὸς παρεσφαλμένοι.

Λοιπῇ δ' ἔτι πρὸς δόξαν σοφίας ἐστὶ τις ἄτοπος δύναμις, ἦν φύσιν ἂν οἱ πολλοὶ μᾶλλον ἢ σοφίαν ὀνομάσειαν, τότε ὅταν τινά τις συννοῇ ῥαδίως μὲν

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in no way serious. For they imitate with many instruments, and with many imitative acts, not altogether seemly, of their very bodies, in performances both of speech and of every Muse, and in those whereof painting is mother, and whereby many and most various designs are elaborated in many sorts, moist and dry; and though a man ply his craft in these with the greatest zeal, in nothing is he rendered wise by imitation.

And when all these have been performed, there may yet remain assistance, in countless forms and countless cases: the greatest and most useful is called warfare, the art of generalship; most glorified in time of need, requiring most good fortune, and assigned rather to a natural valour than to wisdom. And that which they call medicine is likewise, of course, an assistance in almost every case towards things of which animal nature is deprived by seasons of untimely cold and heat and all such visitations. But none of these is of high repute for the truest wisdom: for they are borne along by opinion, as inaccurate matter of conjecture. We may, I suppose, speak of pilots and sailors alike as giving assistance: yet you shall not report, to appease us, a single wise man from amongst them all; for a man cannot know the wrath or amity of the wind, a desirable thing for all piloting. Nor again all those who say they can give assistance in law suits by their powers of speech, men who by memory and exercise of opinion pay attention to human character, but are far astray from the truth of what is really just.

There still remains, as a claimant to the name of wisdom, a certain strange power, which most people would call a natural gift rather than wisdom, appear-

C ὁ τί περ ἂν μαθᾶναι μαθάνοντα, μάλα δὲ πολλὰ  
 καὶ ἀσφαλῶς μνημονεύοντα, ὅταν τε τὸ πρόσφορον  
 ἐκάστῳ διαμνημονεύῃ τις, ὅ τι γιγνόμενον ἂν  
 πρέποι, τοῦτο δὲ ταχὺ δρᾶ· ταῦτα γὰρ ἅπαντα οἱ  
 μὲν φύσιν, οἱ δὲ σοφίαν, οἱ δὲ ἀγχίνοιαν θήσουσι  
 φύσεως· σοφὸν δὲ ὄντως οὐδενὶ τούτων οὐδεὶς τῶν  
 ἐμφρόνων ἐθελήσει ποτὲ καλεῖν.

D Ἄλλὰ μὴν δεῖ φανῆναί γέ τινα ἐπιστήμην, ἣν  
 ἔχων σοφὸς γίγνοιτ' ἂν ὁ σοφὸς ὄντως ὦν καὶ  
 μὴ μόνον δοξαζόμενος. ἴδωμεν δὴ. χαλεπῶ μὲν  
 γὰρ λόγῳ παντάπασιν ἐπιχειροῦμεν, ἑτέραν πάρεξ  
 τῶν εἰρημένων εὐρεῖν, ἣ σοφία μὲν λέγοιτ' ἂν  
 ὄντως τε καὶ εἰκότως, ὁ δὲ λαβὼν οὔτε βάνουσος  
 οὔτ' ἠλίθιος ἔσται, σοφὸς δὲ καὶ ἀγαθός δι' αὐτὴν  
 πολίτης [τε] καὶ ἄρχων καὶ ἀρχόμενος ἐνδίκως  
 [ἔσται]<sup>1</sup> πόλεως ἅμα καὶ ἐμμελής. κατίδωμεν δὴ  
 ταύτην πρώτην, τίς ποτ' ἐκ τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης  
 φύσεως ἐπιστήμη μία διεξελθοῦσα ἢ μὴ παρα-  
 γενομένη τῶν νῦν παρουσῶν ἀνοητότατον ἂν καὶ  
 ἀφρονέστατον παράσχοιτο ζῶον τὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων.

E οὐ δὴ τοῦτό γε πάνυ χαλεπὸν τὸ κατιδεῖν. μία γὰρ  
 ὡς εἰπεῖν πρὸς μίαν ἢ τὸν ἀριθμὸν δοῦσα παντὶ  
 τῷ θνητῷ γένει τοῦτ' ἂν δράσειεν· θεὸν δ' αὐτὸν  
 μᾶλλον ἢ τινα τύχην ἠγοῦμαι δόντα ἡμῖν σώζειν  
 ἡμᾶς. ὃν δὲ θεὸν ἠγοῦμαι, φράζειν χρή, καίπερ  
 ἄτοπον ὄντα, καὶ πῶς οὐκ ἄτοπον αὖ· πῶς γὰρ τὸ  
 977 ἀγαθῶν αἴτιον ἡμῖν συμπάντων οὐ καὶ τοῦ πολὺ  
 μεγίστου, τῆς φρονήσεως, αἴτιον ἠγεῖσθαι δεῖ  
 γεγονέναι; τίνα δὴ καὶ σεμνύνων ποτὲ λέγω θεόν,

<sup>1</sup> τε et ἔσται secl. Stallbaum.

<sup>1</sup> Literally, "in tune," and hence "fitting in gracefully,"  
 "behaving with good taste," etc.

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ing when one perceives someone learning this or that lesson with ease, or remembering a great many things securely ; or when one recalls what is suitable to each person, what should properly be done, and does it quickly. Some people will describe all this as nature, others as wisdom, and others as a natural readiness of mind : but no sensible person will ever call a man really wise for any of these gifts.

But surely there must be found some science, the possession of which will cause the wisdom of him who is really wise and not wise merely in men's opinion. Well, let us see : for in this laborious discussion we are trying our hardest to find some other science, apart from those we have mentioned, which can really and reasonably be termed wisdom ; such an acquirement as will not make one a mean and witless drudge, but will enable one to be a wise and good citizen, at once a just ruler and subject of his city, and decorous.<sup>1</sup> So let us examine this one first, and see what single science it is of those that we now have which, by removing itself or being absent from human nature, must render mankind the most thoughtless and senseless of creatures. Well, there is no great difficulty in making that out. For if there is one more than another, so to speak, which will do this, it is the science which gave number to the whole race of mortals ; and I believe God rather than some chance gave it to us, and so preserves us. And I must explain who it is that I believe to be God, though he be a strange one, and somehow not strange either : for why should we not believe the cause of all the good things that are ours to have been the cause also of what is far the greatest, understanding ? And who is it that I magnify with the name of God, Megillus

ὦ Μέγιστέ τε καὶ Κλεινία; σχεδὸν Οὐρανόν, ὃν καὶ δικαιοτάτον, ὡς σύμπαντες ἄλλοι δαίμονες ἅμα καὶ θεοί, τιμᾶν τε καὶ εὐχεσθαι διαφερόντως αὐτῷ. τὸ δὲ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων αἴτιον ἀγαθῶν πάντων ἡμῖν αὐτὸν γεγονέναι πάντες ἂν ὁμολογοῦμεν· δοῦναι δὲ ἅμα καὶ ἀριθμὸν ἡμεῖς γε ὄντως αὐτόν φαμεν, ἔτι δὲ καὶ δώσειν, ἕάν τις θέλη συν-  
 Β ακολουθεῖν. ἕάν γὰρ ἴη τις ἐπὶ θεωρίαν ὀρθὴν τὴν τοῦδε, εἴτε κόσμον εἴτε Ὀλυμπον εἴτε Οὐρανὸν ἐν ἡδονῇ τῷ λέγειν, λεγέτω μὲν, ἀκολουθείτω δέ, ὅπῃ ποικίλλων αὐτὸν καὶ τὰ ἐν αὐτῷ στρέφων ἄστρα πάσας διεξόδους ὥρας τε καὶ τροφήν πᾶσι παρέχεται. καὶ τὴν ἄλλην δὲ οὖν φρόνησιν, ὡς φαῖμεν ἄν, σὺν ἀριθμῷ παντί, καὶ τᾶλλ' ἀγαθὰ· τοῦτο δὲ μέγιστον, ἕάν τις τὴν ἀριθμῶν αὐτοῦ δόσιν δεξάμενος ἐπεξέλθῃ πᾶσαν τὴν περίοδον.

Ἔτι δὲ σμικρὸν ἐπανελθόντες πως τοῖς λόγοις  
 C ἀναμνησθῶμεν, ὅτι καὶ μάλ' ὀρθῶς ἐνόησαμεν, ὡς, εἴπερ ἀριθμὸν ἐκ τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης φύσεως ἐξέλοιμεν, οὐκ ἂν ποτέ τι φρόνιμοι γενοίμεθα. οὐ γὰρ ἂν ἔτι ποτέ ψυχὴ τούτου τοῦ ζώου πᾶσαν ἀρετὴν λάβοι σχεδόν, ὅτου λόγος ἀπείη· ζῶον δέ, ὃ τι μὴ γιγνώσκοι δύο καὶ τρία μηδὲ περιττὸν μηδὲ ἄρτιον, ἀγνοοῖ δὲ τὸ παράπαν ἀριθμὸν, οὐκ ἂν ποτε διδόναι λόγον ἔχοι περὶ ὧν αἰσθήσεις καὶ μνήμας [ἔχοι]<sup>1</sup> μόνον εἴη κεκτημένον· τὴν δὲ ἄλλην ἀρετὴν,  
 D ἀνδρείαν καὶ σωφροσύνην, οὐδὲν ἀποκωλύει· στερόμενος δὲ ἀληθοῦς λόγου σοφὸς οὐκ ἂν ποτε γένοιτο, ὅτῳ δὲ σοφία μὴ προσείη, πάσης ἀρετῆς

<sup>1</sup> ἔχοι om. vulg.

<sup>1</sup> Apparently a metaphor from astronomy, meaning "the prescribed or proper course of study"; cf. Plato, *Rep.* 407 E.

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and Cleinias? Merely Heaven, which it is most our duty to honour and pray to especially, as do all other spirits and gods. That it has been the cause of all the other good things we have, we shall all admit; that it likewise gave us number we do really say, and that it will give us this hereafter, if we will but follow its lead. For if one enters on the right theory about it, whether one be pleased to call it World-order or Olympus or Heaven—let one call it this or that, but follow where, in bespangling itself and turning the stars that it contains, it produces all their courses and the seasons and food for all. And thence, accordingly, we have understanding in general, we may say, and therewith all number, and all other good things: but the greatest of these is when, after receiving its gift of numbers, one has covered the whole circuit.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, let us turn back some little way in our discussion and recall how entirely right we were in conceiving that if we should deprive human nature of number we should never attain to any understanding. For then the soul of that creature which could not *tell*<sup>2</sup> things would never any more be able, one may say, to attain virtue in general; and the creature that did not know two and three, or odd or even, and was completely ignorant of number, could never clearly *tell* of things about which it had only acquired sensations and memories. From the attainment of ordinary virtue—courage and temperance—it is certainly not debarred: but if a man is deprived of true *telling* he can never become wise, and he who has not the acquirement of wisdom

<sup>2</sup> There is a curious play here on the two meanings of *λόγος*—“reckoning,” and “description.” (Cf. the like English meanings of “tale” or “account.”)

τὸ μέγιστον μέρος, οὐκ ἂν ἔτι τελέως ἀγαθὸς γενόμενος εὐδαίμων ποτὲ γένοιτο. οὕτως ἀριθμὸν μὲν ἀνάγκη πᾶσα ὑποτίθεσθαι· διότι δὲ τοῦτο ἀνάγκη, λόγος ἔτι πλείων πάντων γίγναιτ' ἂν τῶν εἰρημένων. ἀλλὰ καὶ ὁ νῦν ὀρθῶς ῥηθήσεται, ὅτι καὶ τὰ τῶν ἄλλων τεχνῶν λεγόμενα, ἃ νῦν δὴ διήλθομεν ἐῶντες εἶναι πάσας τὰς τέχνας, οὐδὲ  
**Ε** τούτων ἓν οὐδὲν μένει, πάντα δ' ἀπολείπεται τὸ παράπαν, ὅταν ἀριθμητικὴν τις ἀνέλῃ.

Δόξειε δ' ἂν ἴσως<sup>1</sup> τις βραχέων ἔνεκα ἀριθμοῦ δεῖσθαι τὸ τῶν ἀνθρώπων γένος, εἰς τὰς τέχνας ἀποβλέψας· καίτοι μέγα μὲν καὶ τοῦτο· εἰ δέ τις ἴδοι τὸ θεῖον τῆς γενέσεως καὶ τὸ θνητόν, ἐν ᾧ καὶ τὸ θεοσεβὲς γνωρισθήσεται καὶ ὁ<sup>2</sup> ἀριθμὸς ὄντως,  
 978 οὐκ ἂν ἔτι πᾶς ἂν τις γνοίῃ σύμπαντα ἀριθμὸν, ὅσης ἡμῖν δυνάμεως αἴτιος ἂν εἴη συγγιγνόμενος· ἐπεὶ καὶ τὰ κατὰ μουσικὴν πᾶσαν διαριθμουμένων κινήσεώς τε καὶ φθόγγων δῆλον ὅτι δεῖ· καὶ τὸ μέγιστον, ἀγαθῶν ὡς πάντων αἴτιον· ὅτι δὲ κακῶν οὐδενός, εἶ τοῦτο γνωστόν, ὃ καὶ τάχα γένοιτ' ἂν. ἀλλ' ἢ σχεδὸν ἀλόγιστός τε καὶ ἄτακτος ἀσχήμων τε καὶ ἄρρυθμος ἀνάρμοστός τε φορά, καὶ πάνθ' ὅποσα κακοῦ κεκοινωνηκέτινος, ἐπι-  
**Β** λέλειπται παντὸς ἀριθμοῦ, καὶ δεῖ τοῦθ' οὕτω διανοεῖσθαι τὸν μέλλοντα εὐδαίμονα τελευτήσειν· καὶ τό γε δὴ δίκαιόν τε καὶ ἀγαθὸν καὶ καλὸν καὶ πάντα τὰ τοιαῦτα οὐδεὶς ποτε μὴ γινώσκων,

<sup>1</sup> ἴσως Theo: ἰκανῶς MSS.

<sup>2</sup> ὁ Theo: om. MSS.



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—the greatest part of virtue as a whole—can no more achieve the perfect goodness which may make him happy. Thus it is absolutely necessary to postulate number; and why this is necessary can be shown by a still fuller argument than any that has been advanced. But here is one that will be particularly correct—that of the properties of the other arts, which we recounted just now in granting the existence of all the arts, not a single one can remain, but all of them are utterly defective, when once you remove numeration.

And one may judge, perhaps, for brevity's sake how the human race needs number, by glancing at the arts—and yet that too is a great matter—but if you note the divinity of birth, and its mortality, in which awe of the divine must be acknowledged, and real number,<sup>1</sup> it is not anybody who can tell how great is the power which we owe to the accompaniment of number as a whole—for it is clear that everything in music needs a distinct numeration of movement and notes—and above all, how it is the cause of all good things; and that it is the cause of no evil thing is a point that must be well understood, as it may be quickly enough. Nay, the motion that we may call unreasoned and unordered, lacking shape and rhythm and harmony, and everything that has a share of some evil, is deficient in number altogether; and in this light must the matter be regarded by him who means to end his life in happiness. And no one who does not know the just, the good, the honourable and all the rest of such qualities, with a hold on

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* our birth and death are alike under divine influence, and this means that they are governed by number—a Pythagorean argument.

ἀληθοῦς δόξης ἐπιλαβόμενος, διαριθμήσεται πρὸς τὸ ἑαυτὸν τε καὶ ἕτερον πείσαι τὸ παράπαν.

Ἰωμεν δὴ σκεψόμενοι πρὸς τοῦτ' αὐτό, πῶς ἐμάθομεν ἀριθμεῖν. φέρε· τὸ γὰρ ἐν δὴ καὶ δύο γέγονε πόθεν ἡμῖν ὥστ' ἐννοῆσαι, φύσιν ταύτην  
 C ἔχουσιν ἐκ τοῦ παντός πρὸς τὸ δυνατοῦς ἐννοεῖν εἶναι; πολλοῖς δὲ ἄλλοις αὖ τῶν ζώων οὐδ' εἰς αὐτὸ τοῦθ' ἢ φύσις παραγέγονεν, ὥστε μαθεῖν δυνατοῖς εἶναι παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς ἀριθμεῖν, παρὰ δ' ἡμῖν τοῦτ' αὐτὸ πρῶτον ἐνώκισεν ὁ θεός, ὥστε ἱκανοῖς εἶναι δεικνύμενον συννοεῖν, ἔπειτ' ἔδειξε καὶ δείκνυσιν ὧν τί κάλλιον ἐν ἐνὸς ἂν τις θεάσαιτο πλὴν τὸ τῆς ἡμέρας γένος, εἶτα εἰς τὸ τῆς νυκτὸς ἔλθοι μέρος ἔχων ὄψιν, ὅθεν ἕτερον πᾶν αὐτῶ  
 D φαίνοιτ' ἂν; καὶ ἐλίπτων δὴ ταῦτα αὐτὰ [ὄντα μὴ παύηται] πολλὰς μὲν νύκτας, πολλὰς δὲ ἡμέρας [ἄς]<sup>1</sup> οὐρανός, οὐδέποτε παύεται διδάσκων ἀνθρώπους ἐν τε καὶ δύο, πρὶν ἂν καὶ ὁ δυσμαθέστατος ἱκανῶς μάθη ἀριθμεῖν· ὡς γὰρ καὶ τρία καὶ τέτταρα καὶ πολλὰ, ἕκαστος ἡμῶν ἐπινοήσειεν ἂν ὀρῶν ταῦτα. καὶ ἐκ τούτων ἐν ἐποίησε τὴν σελήνην ὁ θεὸς ἀπεργασάμενος, ἣ τοτὲ μὲν μείζων φαινομένη, τοτὲ δ' ἐλάττων, διεξῆλθεν ἄλλην αἰὲ  
 E φαίνουσα ἡμέραν, μέχρι πεντεκαίδεκα ἡμερῶν καὶ νυκτῶν· αὕτη δ' ἔστι περίοδος, εἰ βούλεται τις τὸν κύκλον ἓνα ὅλον εἰς ἐν τιθέναι, ὥστε ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν καὶ τὸ δυσμαθέστατον ἂν μαθεῖν ζῶον, οἷς παρέδωκε φύσιν ὁ θεὸς τοῦ δυνατοῖς εἶναι μανθάνειν.

<sup>1</sup> ὄντα μὴ παύηται et ἄς secl. Ast.

<sup>1</sup> The meaning obviously required—"shape" or "phase"—cannot be extracted from ἡμέραν, which is probably a copyist's error for ἰδέαν.

## EPINOMIS

true opinion, will number them off so as fully to persuade both himself and his neighbour.

Now let us go on to inquire into the actual question of how we learnt to count in numbers. Tell me, whence have we got the conception of one and two, a natural gift that we have from the All to enable us to conceive of their existence? Then again, many other living creatures are not endowed by nature even to the actual point of being able to learn from their father to count; whereas in us, in the first place, God implanted this very conception, so that we might be equal to comprehending it when shown to us, and in the second place, he showed it and shows it. Among such things, what one more singularly beautiful can a man behold than the world of day? Then he comes to the province of night, and views it; and there quite another sight lies before him. And so the heaven, revolving these very objects for many nights and many days, never ceases to teach men one and two, until even the most unintelligent have learnt sufficiently to number; for that there are also three and four and many, each of us must further conceive on seeing those objects. And God made one thing that he wrought from them, the moon, which shows herself at one time larger, at another smaller, and runs her course, showing ever a new shape,<sup>1</sup> until fifteen days and nights are passed: this is her circuit, if one chooses to sum her orbit, as one and entire, in one<sup>2</sup>; so that, we may say, even the least intelligent creature must learn it, among those on whom God has bestowed the natural gift of being

<sup>2</sup> This seems to mean that the fifteen days from the new moon to the full moon give the basis for summing her whole thirty days' course—fifteen to the full, and fifteen back.

καὶ μέχρι μὲν τούτων τε καὶ ἐν τούτοις σύμπαν τὸ  
 δυνατὸν τῶν ζώων μάλα ἀριθμητικὸν γέγονε, τὸ  
 979 καθ' ἐν αὐτὸ σκοποῦν. τὸ δὲ πρὸς ἄλληλα πάντα  
 ἀριθμὸν αἰεὶ λογίζεσθαι, δοκῶ μὲν μείζονος ἕνεκα,  
 καὶ τούτου δὲ σελήνην, καθάπερ εἶπομεν, αὐξανο-  
 μένην καὶ φθίνουσαν ἐμποιήσας, μῆνας πρὸς τὸν  
 ἐνιαυτὸν συνεστήσατο, καὶ πάντα ἀριθμὸν πρὸς  
 ἀριθμὸν ἤρξατο συνορᾶν εὐδαίμονι τύχῃ. διὰ δὲ  
 ταῦθ' ἡμῖν καρποὶ τε καὶ ἐγκύμων ἢ γῆ γέγονεν,  
 ὥστ' εἶναι τροφήν πᾶσι τοῖς ζώοις, ἀνέμων τε καὶ  
 ὑετῶν γιγνομένων οὐκ ἔξαισίων οὐδὲ ἀμέτρων· ἀλλ'  
 Β εἴ τι παρὰ ταῦτα γίνεται πρὸς τὸ φλαῦρον, οὐ  
 τὴν θείαν ἀλλὰ τὴν ἀνθρωπίνην αἰτιᾶσθαι χρὴ  
 φύσει, οὐκ ἐν δίκῃ διανέμουσαν τὸν αὐτῶν βίον.  
 ἡμῖν δ' οὖν ζητοῦσι περὶ νόμων σχεδὸν ἔδοξε τὰ  
 μὲν ἄλλα ῥάδιά τ' εἶναι γνῶναι τὰ βέλτιστα ἀνθρώ-  
 ποις, καὶ πᾶς ἂν ἱκανὸς γίγνεσθαι καὶ συνεῖναι  
 τὰ λεγόμενα καὶ ποιεῖν, εἰ γνοίη, τί ποτ' ἔστιν ὃ  
 συμφέρειν εἰκὸς καὶ τί τὸ μὴ συμφέρον· ἔδοξε δὲ  
 καὶ νῦν ἔτι δοκεῖ τὰ μὲν ἄλλα ἐπιτηδεύματα πάντα  
 C οὐ σφόδρα χαλεπὰ εἶναι, τὸ δὲ τίνα τρόπον χρὴ  
 γίγνεσθαι χρηστοὺς ἀνθρώπους παγχάλεπον. καὶ  
 τὰ μὲν ἄλλα αὐτὰ πάντα κτᾶσθαι χρηστά, τὸ λεγόμενον  
 [τε],<sup>1</sup> καὶ δυνατὸν καὶ οὐ χαλεπὸν, οὐσίαν τε ὄσην  
 δεῖ καὶ μὴ δεῖ, καὶ σῶμα οἶόν τε δεῖ καὶ μὴ· καὶ  
 ψυχὴν ὅτι μὲν ἀγαθὴν δεῖ, συγχωρεῖ πᾶς παντί, τὸ  
 δ' ὄντινα τρόπον ἀγαθὴν, ὅτι μὲν αὐτὴ δικαίαν καὶ  
 σώφρονα καὶ ἀνδρείαν, καὶ ταῦτα, ὅτι δὲ σοφὴν,

<sup>1</sup> τε om. Bekker.

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able to learn. Within certain limits, and in certain cases, every creature so enabled has been made fully apt for numeration,—when it considers any unit in itself. But as to reckoning number generally in the relations of things to each other, I think that God, if not for a greater reason, to this end interposed, as we mentioned, the waxing and waning of the moon, and arranged the months to make up the year, and all things began to comprehend number in relation to number by a happy fortune. Hence it is that we have fruits and the teeming of the earth, so that there may be food for all creatures, with no inordinate or immoderate occurrences of winds and rains : but if in spite of this something does occur in an evil way, we ought not to charge it upon the divine but upon the human nature, for not disposing our own lives aright.

Now in our inquiry about laws, you know we decided that all other things that are best for men are easy to discover, and that everyone may become competent both to understand and to perform what he is told, if he discovers what is that which is likely to profit him, and what is not profitable : well, we decided, and we are still of the same mind, that all other studies are not very difficult, but that this of learning in what way we should become good men is one of the utmost difficulty. Everything else, again, that is good, as they say, is both possible and not difficult to acquire, and the amount of property that is wanted or not wanted, and the kind of body that is wanted or not : everyone agrees that a good soul is wanted, and agrees, moreover, as to the manner of its goodness, that for this again it must be just and temperate and brave ; but whereas everyone

φησὶ μὲν πᾶς δεῖν, ἦντινα δὲ σοφίαν, ὡς ἄρτι  
 D διεληλύθαμεν, οὐδεὶς οὐδενὶ τὸ παράπαν ἔτι συν-  
 ομολογεῖ τῶν πολλῶν. νῦν οὖν δὴ παρὰ πάσας  
 τὰς πρόσθεν σοφίας οὐ φαύλην τινὰ ἀνευρίσκομεν  
 εἰς αὐτὰ γε ταῦτα, τὸ δοκεῖν σοφὸν εἶναι τὸν γε  
 μεμαθηκότα ἄπερ καὶ διεληλύθαμεν· εἰ δ' ἔστι  
 σοφὸς ὁ ταῦτ' ἐπιστήμων καὶ ἀγαθός, τούτου δὴ  
 πέρι λόγον δεῖ λαβεῖν.

ΚΛ. ὦ ξένε, ὡς εἰκότως εἶπες, ὅτι περὶ μεγάλων  
 μεγάλα ἐπιχειρεῖς φράζειν.

E ΑΘ. Οὐ γὰρ σμικρά, ὦ Κλεινία· τὸ δὲ χαλεπώ-  
 τερον, ὅτι παντάπασι καὶ πάντως ἀληθῆ.

ΚΛ. Σφόδρα γε, ὦ ξένε· ἀλλ' ὅμως μὴ ἀποκάμης  
 λέγων ὁ φῆς.

ΑΘ. Ναί, μηδὲ σφῶ τοίνυν ἀκούοντε.

ΚΛ. Ταῦτ' ἔσται· καὶ ὑπὲρ ἀμφοῖν ἐγὼ σοι  
 φράζω.

980 ΑΘ. Καλῶς. ἐξ ἀρχῆς δὴ ρητέον ἀνάγκη<sup>1</sup> πρῶτον,  
 ὡς φαίνεται, μάλιστα μὲν ἂν, εἰ δυνάμεθα ἐνὶ  
 λαβεῖν ὀνόματι, τίς ἐστὶν ἦν οἴομεθα σοφίαν εἶναι,  
 τοῦτο δ' εἰ σφόδρα ἀδυνατοῦμεν, τὸ δεύτερον, τίνες  
 εἰσὶ ποτε καὶ ὁπόσαι τινές, ἃς τις λαβὼν σοφὸς ἂν  
 εἶη κατὰ τὸν ἡμέτερον μῦθον.

ΚΛ. Λέγοις ἂν.

ΑΘ. Τὸ δὴ μετὰ τοῦτο ἀνεμέσητον τῷ νομοθέτῃ  
 τὸ κάλλιον τῶν πρότερον εἰρημένων περὶ θεῶν καὶ  
 ἄμεινον ἀπεικάζοντι λέγειν, οἷον παιδιᾶ καλῆ

<sup>1</sup> ἀνάγκη Schneider: ἀνάγκη MSS.

## EPINOMIS

says it must be wise, no one any longer agrees at all with anyone else, in most cases—we have just now explained—as to what its wisdom should be. So now we are discovering, besides all those former kinds, a wisdom of no mean worth for this very purpose of showing how he is wise who has learnt the things that we have explained. And if he is wise who has knowledge of these things and is good at them, we must now take account of him.

CL. Good sir, how properly you said that you are undertaking to express great thoughts on great subjects !

ATH. Yes, for they are not small, Cleinias : but what is more difficult is to show that they are entirely and in every sense true.

CL. Very much so, good sir : but still, do not weary of the task of stating your views.

ATH. I will not, and therefore you two must not weary either of listening to me.

CL. Agreed : I give you my word for us both.

ATH. Thank you. To begin with, then, we must necessarily state first, it would seem—best of all, in a single word, if we are able so to put it—what is that which we suppose to be wisdom ; but if we are utterly unable to do this, we must say in the second place what and how many kinds of it there are that a man must have acquired, if he is to be wise according to our story.

CL. Pray speak on.

ATH. And as to the next step, it will be no offence in the lawgiver that he speaks finer things than have been previously said about the gods, and uses higher terms of portrayal, making as it were a noble sport

## PLATO

Β χρωμένω καὶ τιμῶντι θεούς, ὕμνοις τε καὶ εὐδαιμονία γεραίροντι διάγειν τὸν αὐτοῦ βίον.

ΚΛ. Ἡ καλῶς, ὦ ξένε, λέγεις. εἰ γάρ σοι τοῦτο τέλος εἴη τῶν νόμων, θεούς προσπαίσαντι καθαρώτερόν τε διαγαγόντι τὸν βίον τῆς ἅμα τελευτῆς ἀρίστης τε καὶ καλλίστης τυχεῖν.

ΑΘ. Πῶς οὖν, ὦ Κλεινία, λέγομεν; ἢ δοκεῖ τοὺς θεούς ὕμνουντες σφόδρα τιμῶμεν, εὐχόμενοι τὰ κάλλιστα καὶ ἀριστα περὶ αὐτῶν ἐπιέναι λέγειν ἡμῖν; οὕτως ἢ πῶς λέγεις;

Κ ΚΛ. Θαυμαστῶς μὲν οὖν οὕτως. ἀλλ', ὦ δαιμόνιε, πιστεύσας τοῖς θεοῖς εὐχου τε καὶ λέγε τὸν ἐπιόντα σοι λόγον τῶν καλῶν περὶ τοὺς θεούς τε καὶ τὰς θεάς.

ΑΘ. Ἔσται ταῦτα, ἂν αὐτὸς ὁ θεὸς ἡμῖν ὑψηγῆται. συνεύχου μόνον.

ΚΛ. Λέγοις ἂν τὸ μετὰ τοῦτο.

ΑΘ. Θεογονίαν τοίνυν καὶ ζωογονίαν ἀναγκαῖον, ὡς ἔοικε, πρῶτόν μοι, κακῶς ἀπεικασάντων τῶν ἔμπροσθεν, βέλτιον ἀπεικάσαι κατὰ τὸν ἔμπροσθεν λόγον, ἀναλαβόντα ὃν πρὸς τοὺς ἀσεβεῖς ἐπι-  
 D κεχείρηκα λέγων,<sup>1</sup> φράζων ὡς εἰσὶ θεοὶ ἐπιμελούμενοι πάντων, σμικρῶν καὶ μειζόνων, καὶ σχεδὸν ἀπαραμύθητοι τῶν περὶ τὰ δίκαιά εἰσι πράγματα— εἰ δὴ μέμνησθέ γε, ὦ Κλεινία· ἐλάβετε μὲν γὰρ δὴ καὶ ὑπομνήματα· καὶ γὰρ ἦν τὰ ρηθέντα τότε καὶ μάλα ἀληθῆ· τόδε δὲ αὐτῶν ἦν τὸ μέγιστον, ὅτι πρεσβύτερον εἴη ψυχῇ σώματος ἅπασα παντός·

<sup>1</sup> λέγων Euseb.: λόγους mss.

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the statement made in *Laws* x., on the existence of the gods, and the reverence due to them.



## EPINOMIS

and honouring the gods, with high tribute of his hymns and affluence throughout the period of his own life.

CL. Well spoken, indeed, good sir. Yes, may you have this consummation of your laws, after making fine sport in praising the gods and having passed a purer life, to find thereby the best and fairest end!

ATH. Then how, Cleinias, do we state it? Do we honour the gods, think you, to the utmost with our hymns, praying that we may be moved to speak the fairest and best things about them? Do you state it so, or how?

CL. Nay, absolutely so. Now, my excellent friend, pray to the gods with confidence, and utter the fine specimen of a speech that you are moved to make about the gods and goddesses.

ATH. It shall be done, if the god himself will be our guide. Do but join in my prayer.

CL. Speak what follows next.

ATH. It is necessary, then, it seems, that I should first portray in better terms, according to our previous statement, the generation of gods and of living creatures, which has been ill portrayed by those before us; I must resume the statement which I have attempted in speaking against the impious,<sup>1</sup> declaring that there are gods who have a care for all things, small and greater, and who are well-nigh inexorable in what relates to the justice of things: that is, if you remember, Cleinias; for you did take memoranda<sup>2</sup> besides, and indeed what then was spoken was very true. And the most important part of it was that every soul was senior to each body<sup>3</sup>: do you

<sup>2</sup> There is no hint of this in the *Laws*.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Laws* x. 893-6.

ἄρα μέμνησθε; ἢ πάντως που τοῦτό γε; ὁ γὰρ ἄμεινον καὶ παλαιότερον καὶ θεοειδέστερον, πιθανὸν  
 Ε ὅτι τοῦ νέου καὶ νεωτέρου καὶ ἀτιμοτέρου, πανταχῆ  
 τε ἄρχον ἀρχομένου πρεσβύτερον καὶ ἄγον ἀγομένου  
 πάντη. λάβωμεν δὴ τοῦτό γε, ὡς ψυχὴ πρεσ-  
 βυτέρον ἐστὶ σώματος· εἰ δ' ἔχει τοῦτο οὕτω, τό  
 981 γε πρῶτον ἡμῖν τοῦ πρώτου τῆς γενέσεως πιθανώ-  
 τερον ἂν εἶη σχεδὸν ὑπηργμένον· καὶ θῶμεν δὴ  
 τὴν ἀρχὴν τῆς ἀρχῆς εὐσχημονέστερον ἔχειν, καὶ  
 τῶν μεγίστων σοφίας περὶ θεῶν γενέσεως ὀρθότατα  
 ἐπιβαίνειν ἡμᾶς.

κλ. Ἔστω ταῦτα εἰς δύναμιν λεγόμενα.

αθ. Φέρε δὴ, ζῶόν γε ἀληθέστατα λέγεσθαι  
 κατὰ φύσιν φῶμεν τοῦτό γε, ὅταν μία συνελθοῦσα  
 σύστασις ψυχῆς καὶ σώματος ἀποτέκη μίαν μορφήν;

κλ. Ὅρθως.

Β αθ. Ζῶον μὲν δὴ τὸ τοιοῦτον καλεῖται δικαιο-  
 τατα;

κλ. Ναί.

αθ. Στερεὰ δὲ σώματα λέγεσθαι χρὴ κατὰ τὸν  
 εἰκότα λόγον πέντε, ἐξ ὧν κάλλιστα καὶ ἄριστά τις  
 ἂν πλάττοι, τὸ δὲ ἄλλο γένος ἅπαν ἔχει μορφήν  
 μίαν· οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν ἀσώματον ὃ τί τ' ἄλλο γίγνοιτ'  
 ἂν καὶ χρῶμα οὐδὲν οὐδαμῶς οὐδέποτ' ἔχον, πλὴν  
 τὸ θειότατον ὄντως ψυχῆς γένος. τοῦτο δ' ἐστὶ  
 σχεδὸν ᾧ μόνῳ πλάττειν καὶ δημιουργεῖν προσήκει,  
 C σώματι δέ, ὃ λέγομεν, πλάττεσθαι καὶ γίγνεσθαι

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the elements fire, water, air, earth, and ether. Plato (*Tim.* 40 A, 81 E) does not allow ether as one of the elements: our author includes it, because he wishes to make it the source of *δαίμονες*, or spirits that come midway between gods and men in the scale of existence; *cf.* 984 B, E.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* the generality of things that have come to be have

## EPINOMIS

remember? Or in any case, surely, this must be so? For that which is better and more ancient and more godlike is credibly so in comparison with the young, the junior, and the less emancipated; and altogether, a thing governing is senior to a thing governed, and the driver every way senior to the driven. So much, then, let us conclude—that soul is senior to body; and if this is the case, what came first in that which first was born will more credibly seem almost to have been original. So let us take it that the beginning of the beginning is more august in state, and that we are most correctly entering upon wisdom in the greatest matters relating to the generation of the gods.

CL. Let this be so, as far as we can state it.

ATH. Come then, shall we say that a living creature is most truly described by its nature, as a case of one combination of soul and body so uniting as to beget one shape?

CL. Correct.

ATH. And such a thing is most justly called a living creature?

CL. Yes.

ATH. On the most likely account there are to be reckoned five solid bodies,<sup>1</sup> from which one might fashion things fairest and best; but all the rest of creation has a single shape,<sup>2</sup> for there is nothing that could come to be without a body and never possessing any colour at all, except only that really most divine creature, the soul. And this alone, one may say, has the business of fashioning and manufacturing, whereas the body, as we call it, has that assumed a unity of shape resulting from the afore-mentioned combination of soul and body.

καὶ ὁρᾶσθαι· τῷ δέ—λέγωμεν πάλιν· οὐ γὰρ ἅπαξ ῥητέον—ἀοράτῳ τε εἶναι καὶ γιγνώσκοντι νοητῷ τε, μνήμης μεταλαμβάνοντι λογισμοῦ τε ἐν περιτταῖς τε καὶ ἀρτῖαις ἅμα μεταβολαῖς. πέντε οὖν ὄντων τῶν σωμάτων πῦρ χρή φάναι καὶ ὕδωρ εἶναι καὶ τρίτον ἀέρα, τέταρτον δὲ γῆν, πέμπτον δὲ αἰθέρα· τούτων δ' ἐν ἡγεμονίαις ἕκαστον ζῶον πολὺ καὶ παντοδαπὸν ἀποτελεῖσθαι. μαθεῖν δὲ καθ' ἐν ᾧδ'

D ἔστι χρεῶν. γήινον μὲν τιθῶμεν τὸ πρῶτον ἡμῖν ἐν, πάντα μὲν ἀνθρώπους, πάντα δὲ ὅσα πολύποδα καὶ ἄποδα, καὶ ὅσα πορεύσιμα καὶ ὅσα μόνιμα, διειλημμένα ρίζαις· τὸ δὲ ἐν αὐτοῦ τόδε νομίζειν δεῖ, ὡς πάντα μὲν ἐξ ἀπάντων ταυτ' ἔστι τῶν γενῶν, τὸ δὲ πολὺ τούτου γῆς ἐστὶ καὶ τῆς στερεμνίας φύσεως. ἄλλο δὲ χρή ζῴου γένος θεῖναι δεύτερον γιγνόμενον ἅμα καὶ δυνατὸν ὁρᾶσθαι. τὸ γὰρ πλεῖστον πυρὸς ἔχει, ἔχει μὴν γῆς τε καὶ

E ἀέρος, ἔχει δὲ καὶ ἀπάντων τῶν ἄλλων βραχέα μέρη, διὸ δὴ ζῶά τε ἐξ αὐτῶν παντοδαπὰ γίνεσθαι χρή φάναι καὶ ὁρώμενα, νομίσει δὲ δὴ δεῖ πάλιν τὰ καθ' οὐρανὸν ζῶων γένη, ὃ δὴ πᾶν χρή φάναι θεῖον γένος ἀστρων γεγονέναι, σώματος μὲν τυχὸν καλλίστου, ψυχῆς δὲ εὐδαιμονεστάτης τε καὶ ἀρίστης. δυοῖν δὲ αὐτοῖς μοιρῶν τὴν ἑτέραν χρή δόξῃ μεταδιδόναι σχεδόν· ἢ γὰρ ἀνώλεθρόν τε

982 καὶ ἀθάνατον ἕκαστον αὐτῶν εἶναι καὶ θεῖον τὸ παράπαν ἐξ ἀπάσης ἀνάγκης; ἢ τινα μακροίωνα βίον ἔχειν ἱκανὸν ἐκάστῳ ζωῆς, ἧς οὐδέν τι πλείονος ἂν προσδεῖσθαι ποτε.

Νοήσωμεν οὖν πρῶτον, ὃ λέγομεν, δύο τὰ τοιαῦτα

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.*, apparently, if he has mathematical skill added to the power of reflection.

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of being fashioned and produced and seen. But the other—let us repeat it, for not once only be it said—has to be invisible even to the inquiring, and merely thought, if he has got a share of memory and reckoning by both odd and even variations.<sup>1</sup> The bodies, then, being five, we must name them as fire, water, and thirdly air, earth fourth, and ether fifth; and by predominance of these are each of the many varieties of creatures perfected. We should learn this by single instances in the following way. Let us take as earthy our first single element—all men, all things that have many feet or none, and those that move along and that stay still, held in place by roots; but we must conceive its unity thus,—though all these things are the outcome of all kinds, yet for the most part it is of earth and of solid nature. And another kind of creature we must regard as second in birth as well as one that can be seen: for its greatest part is of fire, though it has some earth and air, and has slight portions of all the others also, wherefore we must say that all sorts of creatures are born of them, and things seen, and here again we must conceive the heavenly kinds of creatures, which altogether, we must agree, have been born as the divine race of stars, endowed with the fairest body as also with the happiest and best soul.<sup>2</sup> One or other of two lots we may very well, in our judgement, assign to them: for each of them is either imperishable and immortal, and by all necessity wholly divine, or has a certain longevity sufficient for the life of each, such that nothing could ever require a longer one.

Let us therefore first observe that, as we state it,

<sup>2</sup> Here the author agrees with Plato, *Tim.* 39 E ff.; *Laws* x. 889 B.

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- εἶναι ζῶα, πάλιν γὰρ λέγωμεν, ὁρατὰ μὲν ἀμφό-  
 τερα, τὸ μὲν ἐκ πυρός, ὡς δόξειεν ἄν, ὅλον, τὸ δ'  
 ἐκ γῆς, καὶ τὸ μὲν γήινον ἐν ἀταξία, τὸ δ' ἐκ  
 πυρός ἐν τάξει πάσῃ κινούμενον· τὸ μὲν οὖν ἐν  
 ἀταξία κινούμενον ἄφρον χρῆ νομίζειν, ὅπερ ὡς τὸ  
 Β πολὺ δρᾶ τὸ περὶ ἡμᾶς ζῶον, τὸ δὲ ἐν τάξει τε καὶ  
 οὐρανῶ πόρον ἔχον μέγα τεκμήριον χρῆ ποιεῖσθαι  
 τοῦ φρόνιμον εἶναι· κατὰ ταῦτά γὰρ ἂν καὶ ὡσαύτως  
 πορευόμενον αἰεὶ καὶ ποιοῦν καὶ πάσχον τεκμήριον  
 ἱκανὸν τοῦ φρονίμως ζῆν εἶη παρεχόμενον. ἡ  
 ψυχῆς δὲ ἀνάγκη νοῦν κεκτημένης ἀπασῶν ἀναγκῶν  
 πολὺ μεγίστη γίγνοιτ' ἄν· ἄρχουσα γὰρ ἄλλ' οὐκ  
 ἀρχομένη νομοθετεῖ. τὸ δὲ ἀμετάστροφον, ὅταν  
 C ψυχὴ τὸ ἄριστον κατὰ τὸν ἄριστον βουλευθήται  
 νοῦν, τὸ τέλος ἐκβαίνει τῷ ὄντι κατὰ νοῦν, καὶ  
 οὐδὲ ἀδάμας ἂν αὐτοῦ κρείττον οὐδὲ ἀμεταστρο-  
 φώτερον ἂν ποτε γένοιτο, ἀλλ' ὄντως τρεῖς Μοῖραι  
 κατέχουσαι φυλάττουσι τέλος εἶναι τὸ βελτίστη  
 βουλή βεβουλευμένον ἐκάστοις θεῶν. τοῖς δὲ  
 ἀνθρώποις ἐχρῆν τεκμήριον εἶναι τοῦ νοῦν ἔχειν  
 ἄστρα τε καὶ σύμπασαν ταύτην τὴν διαπορείαν,  
 ὅτι τὰ αὐτὰ αἰεὶ πράττει διὰ τὸ βεβουλευμένα  
 πάλαι πράττειν θαυμαστόν τινα χρόνον ὅσον, ἀλλ'  
 D οὐ μεταβουλευόμενον ἄνω καὶ κάτω, τοτὲ μὲν  
 ἕτερα, ἄλλοτε δὲ ἄλλα πρᾶττον, πλανᾶσθαι τε καὶ  
 μετακυκλεῖσθαι. τοῦθ' ἡμῶν τοῖς πολλοῖς αὐτὸ  
 τούναντίον ἔδοξεν, ὅτι τὰ αὐτὰ καὶ ὡσαύτως  
 πράττει,<sup>1</sup> ψυχὴν οὐκ ἔχειν· οὕτω τοῖς ἄφροσι  
 συνεφέσπετο τὸ πλήθος, ὡς τὸ μὲν ἀνθρώπινον

<sup>1</sup> πράττει Stephanus: πράττειν MSS.

<sup>1</sup> "Necessity" is used here in the old poetic sense of a com-  
 pelling or overruling power; cf. the mention of the Fates below.  
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such creatures are of two sorts—for let us state it again—both visible, the one of fire, as would appear, entirely, and the other of earth; and the earthy is in disorder, whereas that of fire has its motion in perfect order. Now that which has motion in disorder we should regard as unintelligent, acting like the animal creatures about us for the most part; but that which has an orderly and heavenly progress must be taken as strongly evincing its intelligence. For in passing on and acting and being acted upon always in the same respects and manner it must provide sufficient evidence of its intelligent life. The necessity<sup>1</sup> of a soul that has acquired mind will prove itself by far the greatest of all necessities; for it makes laws as ruler, not as ruled: but this inalterable thing, when the soul has taken the best counsel in accord with the best mind, comes out as the perfect thing in truth and in accord with mind, and not even adamant could ever prove stronger than it or more inalterable; but in fact the three Fates have it in hold, and keep watch that what has been decided by each of the gods with the best counsel shall be perfect. And men ought to have found proof of the stars and the whole of that travelling system being possessed of mind in the fact that they always do the same things because they do what has been decided long ago for an incalculable time, not deciding differently this way and that, and doing sometimes one thing, sometimes another, in wanderings and changes of circuit. Most of us have thought just the opposite—that because they do the same things in the same way they have no soul: the multitude followed the lead of the unintelligent so far as to suppose that, whereas humanity was intelligent and

ἔμφρον καὶ ζῶν ὡς κινούμενον ὑπολαβεῖν, τὸ δὲ  
 θεῖον ἄφρον ὡς μένον ἐν ταῖς αὐταῖς φοραῖς· ἐξῆν  
 δὲ ἀνθρώπῳ γε ἐπὶ τὰ καλλίω καὶ βελτίω καὶ  
 Ε φίλα τιθεμένῳ λαμβάνειν, ὡς διὰ τοῦτο αὐτὸ  
 ἔμφρον δεῖ νομίζειν τὸ κατὰ ταῦτὰ καὶ ὡσαύτως  
 καὶ διὰ ταῦτὰ πράττον αἰεὶ· τοῦτο δ' εἶναι τὴν τῶν  
 ἄστρον φύσιν, ἰδεῖν μὲν καλλίστην, πορείαν δὲ καὶ  
 χορείαν πάντων χορῶν καλλίστην καὶ μεγαλο-  
 πρεπεστάτην χορεύοντα πᾶσι τοῖς ζῶσι τὸ δέον  
 ἀποτελεῖν. καὶ μὴν ὅτι γε δικαίως ἔμψυχα αὐτὰ  
 983 λέγομεν, πρῶτον τὸ μέγεθος αὐτῶν διανοηθῶμεν.  
 οὐ γάρ, ὡς σμικρὰ φαντάζεται, τηλικαῦτα ὄντως  
 ἐστίν, ἀλλ' ἀμήχανον ἕκαστον αὐτῶν τὸν ὄγκον,  
 πιστεῦσαι δ' ἄξιον· ἀποδείξεισι γὰρ ἱκαναῖς λαμ-  
 βάνεται· τὸν γὰρ ἥλιον ὅλον τῆς γῆς ὅλης μείζω  
 διανοηθῆναι δυνατόν ὀρθῶς, καὶ πάντα δὴ τὰ  
 φερόμενα ἄστρα θαυμαστόν τι μέγεθος ἔχει.  
 λάβωμεν δὴ, τίς τρόπος ἂν εἴη τοσοῦτον περιφέρειν  
 ὄγκον τινὰ φύσιν τὸν αὐτὸν αἰεὶ χρόνον, ὅσον καὶ  
 Β νῦν περιφέρεται. θεὸν δὴ φημι τὸν αἴτιον ἔσεσθαι,  
 καὶ οὐποθ' ἐτέρως εἶναι δυνατόν· ἔμψυχον μὲν  
 γὰρ οὐποτε γένοιτ' ἂν ἐτέρα πλὴν διὰ θεόν, ὡς  
 ἡμεῖς ἀπεφηνάμεθα· ὅτε δὲ τοῦτο οἶός τέ ἐστι θεός,  
 ἀπασα αὐτῷ ῥαστώνη γέγονε τοῦ πρῶτον μὲν  
 ζῶον γεγονέναι πᾶν σῶμα καὶ ὄγκον σύμπαντα,  
 ἔπειτα, ἦπερ ἂν διανοηθῆ βέλτιστα, ταύτη φέρειν.  
 νῦν δὴ περὶ ἀπάντων τούτων ἓνα λόγον λέγοιμεν  
 ἀληθῆ· οὐκ ἔστι γῆν τε καὶ οὐρανὸν ἅπαντάς τε  
 C ἀστέρας ὄγκους τε ἐκ τούτων σύμπαντας, μὴ  
 ψυχῆς πρὸς ἐκάστω γενομένης ἢ καὶ ἐν ἐκάστοις,  
 εἶτα εἰς ἀκρίβειαν κατ' ἐνιαυτὸν οὕτω πορεύεσθαι

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Plato, *Tim.* 40 c.



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living because it moved about, divinity was un-intelligent because it abode in the same courses. But if man had sided with the fairer and better and friendly part, he might have concluded that he ought to regard as intelligent—and for this very reason—that which acts always in the same respects, in the same way, and for the same reasons; and that this is the nature of the stars, fairest to see, and passing along, dancing<sup>1</sup> the fairest and most magnificent of all dances in the world, they make good the needs of all living creatures. And now, to see how justly we speak of their living spirit, let us first consider their great size. For they are not actually those small things that they appear to be, but each of them is immense in its bulk; we should do well to believe this, because there are ample proofs of such a conclusion. For we can rightly consider the whole of the sun as larger than the whole of the earth, and all the travelling stars are of amazing size. Let us conclude then whether it can possibly be that any natural force revolves this great mass that is now being revolved, continually and at the same time. God, then, I say, will be the cause, and never in any other way is it possible. For never can a thing get living spirit by any other means than by the act of God, as we have explained; and when God is able to do this, he has found it a perfectly easy matter, firstly that all body and all mass should be made a living creature, and secondly to move it in the course he considers best. So now I trust we may make one true statement about all these things: it cannot be that earth and heaven and all the stars and all the masses they comprise, without soul attached to each or resident in each, should pass along as they do, so

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κατὰ μῆνάς τε καὶ ἡμέρας, καὶ σύμπαντα τὰ γινόμενα σύμπασιν ἡμῖν ἀγαθὰ γίνεσθαι.

Δεῖ δέ, ὅσω φλαυρότερόν ἐστ' ἄνθρωπος, μὴ τοι ληροῦντά γε, σαφῶς δέ τι λέγοντα φαίνεσθαι. ῥύμας μὲν οὖν εἴ τις αἰτίας τινὰς ἐρεῖ σωμάτων ἢ φύσεις ἢ τι τοιοῦτον, οὐδὲν σαφές ἐρεῖ· τὸ δὲ παρ' ἡμῶν εἰρημένον σφόδρ' ἀναλαβεῖν χρή, πότερον

D ἔχει λόγον ὁ λόγος ἢ πάντως ὑστερεῖ, τὸ πρῶτον μὲν τὰ ὄντα εἶναι δύο, τὸ μὲν ψυχὴν, τὸ δὲ σῶμα, καὶ πολλὰ ἑκατέρου, πάντα δὲ ἀλλήλων ἄλλα καὶ ἑκάτερα ἑκατέρων, καὶ τρίτον ἄλλο οὐδὲν κοινὸν οὐδενί, διαφέρειν δὲ ψυχὴν σώματος. ἔμφρον μὲν που, τὸ δὲ ἄφρον θήσομεν, ἄρχον δέ, τὸ δὲ ἀρχόμενον, καὶ τὸ μὲν αἴτιον ἀπάντων, τὸ δὲ ἀναίτιον πάσης πάθης· ὥστε τά γε δὴ κατ' οὐρανὸν ὑπ'

E ἄλλου του φάναι γεγονέαι, καὶ μὴ ψυχῆς τε καὶ σώματος οὕτως εἶναι γεννήματα, πολλὴ μωρία τε καὶ ἀλογία. εἰ δ' οὖν δεῖ νικᾶν τοὺς περὶ ἀπάντων τῶν τοιούτων λόγους καὶ πιστῶς θεῖα φαίνεσθαι γεγονέαι τὰ τοιαῦτα σύμπαντα, δυοῖν τοι θάτερα θετέον αὐτά· ἢ γὰρ θεοὺς αὐτοὺς ταῦτα ὑμνητέον

984 ὀρθότατα, ἢ θεῶν εἰκόνας ὡς ἀγάλματα ὑπολαβεῖν γεγονέαι, θεῶν αὐτῶν ἐργασαμένων· οὐ γὰρ ἀνοήτων γε οὐδὲ βραχέος ἀξίων, ἀλλ' ὅπερ εἰρήκαμεν, τούτων ἡμῖν θάτερα θετέα, τὰ δὲ τεθέντα

<sup>1</sup> Soul and body, in their respective spheres, cover or account for the whole of existent things, of whatever kind, from the astral to the inanimate.

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exactly to every year and month and day, and that all the things that happen should happen for the good of us all.

And according as man is a meaner creature, he should show himself, not a babbler, but a speaker of clear sense. If, then, anyone shall speak of onrushes or natural forces or the like as in a sort the causes of bodies, he will say nothing clear: but we must firmly recall what we have said, and see whether our statement is reasonable or is utterly at fault—namely, in the first place, that existence is of two kinds, the one soul, and the other body, and that many things are in either, though all are different from each other and those of the one kind from those of the other,<sup>1</sup> and that there is no other third thing common to any of them; but soul differs from body. Intelligent, of course, we shall hold it to be, and the other unintelligent; the one governs, the other is governed; and the one is cause of all things, while the other is incapable of causing any of its experiences: so that to assert that the heavenly bodies have come into existence through anything else, and are not the offspring, as we have said, of soul and body, is great folly and unreason. However, if our statements on all such existences are to prevail, and the whole order of them is to be convincingly shown to be divine by their origin, we must certainly class them as one or the other of two things: either we must in all correctness glorify them as actual gods, or suppose them to be images produced as likenesses of the gods, creations of the gods themselves. For they are the work of no mindless or inconsiderable beings but, as we have said, we must class them as one or other of these things; and, if classed as the latter, we must

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τιμητέον πάντων ἀγαλμάτων διαφερόντως· οὐ γὰρ μήποτε φανῆ καλλίω καὶ κοινότερα συμπάντων ἀνθρώπων ἀγάλματα, οὐδ' ἐν διαφέρουσι τόποις ἰδρυμένα, καθαριότητι καὶ σεμνότητι καὶ

**B** συμπάσῃ ζωῇ διαφέροντα, ἢ ταύτῃ, ὡς πάντῃ ταύτῃ γεγένηται. νῦν οὖν δὴ περὶ θεῶν ἐγχειρῶμεν τό γε τοσοῦτον, τὰ δύο κατιδόντες ζῶα ὁρατὰ ἡμῖν, ἃ φάμεν ἀθάνατον, τὸ δὲ γήινον ἅπαν θνητὸν γεγονέναι, τὰ τρία τὰ μέσα τῶν πέντε τὰ μεταξὺ τούτων σαφέστατα κατὰ δόξαν τὴν ἐπιεικῆ γεγονότα πειραθῆναι λέγειν. αἰθέρα μὲν γὰρ μετὰ τὸ πῦρ θῶμεν, ψυχὴν δ' ἐξ αὐτοῦ τιθῶμεν πλάττειν ζῶα δύναμιν ἔχοντα, ὡσπερ τῶν ἄλλων γενῶν, τὸ

**C** πολὺ μὲν τῆς αὐτοῦ φύσεως, τὰ δὲ μικρότερα συνδέσμου χάριν ἐκ τῶν ἄλλων γενῶν· μετὰ δὲ τὸν αἰθέρα ἐξ ἀέρος πλάττειν τὴν ψυχὴν γένος ἕτερον ζώων, καὶ τὸ τρίτον ἐξ ὕδατος· πάντα δὲ δημιουργήσασαν ταῦτα ψυχὴν ζώων εἰκὸς ὄλον οὐρανὸν ἐμπλήσαι, χρησαμένην πᾶσι τοῖς γένεσι κατὰ δύναμιν, πάντων μὲν μετόχων τοῦ ζῆν γεγονότων· δευτέρα δὲ καὶ τρίτα καὶ τέταρτα καὶ πέμπτα, ἀπὸ θεῶν τῶν φανερῶν ἀρξάμενα γενέσεως,

**D** εἰς ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀνθρώπους ἀποτελεωτῶν.

Θεοὺς μὲν δὴ, Δία τε καὶ Ἥραν καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους πάντας, ὅπη τις ἐθέλει, ταύτῃ κατὰ τὸν αὐτὸν τιθέσθω νόμον καὶ πάγιον ἐχέτω τοῦτον τὸν λόγον· θεοὺς δὲ δὴ τοὺς ὁρατοὺς, μεγίστους καὶ τιμιω-

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* fire, ether, air, water, earth ; *cf.* 981 c.

<sup>2</sup> First come the stars, or "manifest gods"; then the creatures of ether, air and water (the second, third or fourth kinds); and fifth and last, the creatures of earth or mankind.

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* the law governing the order or scale of animate creatures which has been described. The writer, like Plato

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honour them far above all images : for never will fairer or more generally-known images be found among all mankind, none established in more various places, more pre-eminent in purity, majesty, and life altogether, than in the way in which their existence is altogether fashioned. Well then, for the present let us attempt so much in treating of the gods, as to try—after observing the two living creatures visible to us, of which we call one immortal, and the other, all earthy, a mortal creation—to tell of the three middle things of the five,<sup>1</sup> which come most evidently, according to the probable opinion, between those two. For let us consider ether as coming next after fire, and let us hold that soul fashions from it live creatures with their faculties, as it does creatures from the other kinds of element, each being for the most part of that one nature, but in its lesser parts derived from the other elements for the sake of connexion. After ether, there is fashioned by soul another kind of creature from air, and the third kind from water ; and by having produced all these it is likely that soul filled the whole heaven with creatures, having made use of all the elements so far as it could, and all the creatures having been made participators in life ; but the second, third, fourth, and fifth kinds, which took their first origin from what are manifest gods, end finally in us men.<sup>2</sup>

Now the gods—Zeus and Hera and all the rest—each man must regard in what light he pleases, though according to the same law,<sup>3</sup> and must take this account as reliable. But as our visible gods, greatest

(*Tim.* 40 D-41 A), avoids any definite statement about the traditional deities : like Plato again (*Tim.* 41 A-42 E), he is more concerned with the “visible gods,” or stars.

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τάτους καὶ ὀξύτατον ὀρώοντας πάντη, τοὺς πρώτους τὴν τῶν ἄστρον φύσιν λεκτέον καὶ ὅσα μετὰ τούτων αἰσθανόμεθα γεγονότα, μετὰ δὲ τούτους καὶ ὑπὸ  
 Ε τούτοις ἐξῆς δαίμονας, ἀέριον δὲ γένος, ἔχον ἔδραν τρίτην καὶ μέσην, τῆς ἐρμηνείας αἴτιον, εὐχαῖς τιμᾶν μάλα χρεῶν χάριν τῆς εὐφήμου διαπορείας. τῶν δὲ δύο τούτων ζώων, τοῦ τ' ἐξ αἰθέρος ἐφεξῆς τε ἀέρος, οὐ<sup>1</sup> διορώμενον ὅλον αὐτῶν ἐκάτερον εἶναι· παρὸν δὴ πλησίον οὐ κατάδηλον ἡμῖν γί-  
 985 γνεσθαι· μετέχοντα δὲ φρονήσεως θαυμαστῆς, ἅτε γένους ὄντα εὐμαθοῦς τε καὶ μνήμονος, γιγνώσκειν μὲν σύμπασαν τὴν ἡμετέραν αὐτὰ διάνοιαν λέγωμεν, καὶ τὸν τε καλὸν ἡμῶν καὶ ἀγαθὸν ἅμα θαυμαστῶς ἀσπάζεσθαι καὶ τὸν σφόδρα κακὸν μισεῖν, ἅτε λύπης μετέχοντα ἤδη· θεὸν μὲν γὰρ δὴ τὸν τέλος ἔχοντα τῆς θείας μοίρας ἔξω τούτων εἶναι, λύπης τε καὶ ἡδονῆς, τοῦ δὲ φρονεῖν καὶ τοῦ γιγνώσκειν κατὰ πάντα μετεिल्ηφέναι· καὶ συμπλήρους δὴ ζώων  
 Β οὐρανοῦ γεγονότος, ἐρμηνεύεσθαι πρὸς ἀλλήλους τε καὶ τοὺς ἀκροτάτους θεοὺς πάντας τε καὶ πάντα, διὰ τὸ φέρεσθαι τὰ μέσα τῶν ζώων ἐπὶ τε γῆν καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν ὅλον οὐρανὸν ἐλαφρᾶ φερόμενα ῥύμη. τὸ δὲ ὕδατος πέμπτον ὃν ἡμίθειον μὲν ἀπεικάσειεν ἂν τις ὀρθῶς ἀπεικάζων ἐξ αὐτοῦ γεγονέναι, καὶ τοῦτ' εἶναι τοτὲ μὲν ὀρώμενον,

<sup>1</sup> οὐ vulg. : ὄν MSS.

<sup>1</sup> The daemons or divine spirits had their existence and activity "betwixt mortal and immortal," and they served as *interpreters* and *conveyers* of men's prayers and offerings to the gods, and of the god's behests and requitals to men (Plato, *Sympos.* 202 D). Good mortals might become daemons after death (Eurip. *Alc.* 1003; Plato, *Cratyl.* 398 B; Lucian, *De morte Peregr.* 36), and as such they were charged

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and most honourable and having keenest vision every way, we must count first the order of the stars and all else that we perceive existing with them; and after these, and next below these, the divine spirits,<sup>1</sup> and air-born race, holding the third and middle situation, cause of interpretation, which we must surely honour with prayers for the sake of an auspicious journey across.<sup>2</sup> We must say of either of these two creatures—that which is of ether and, next to it, of air—that it is not entirely plain to sight: when it is near by, it is not made manifest to us; but partaking of extraordinary intelligence, as belonging to an order which is quick to learn and strong in memory, we may say that they understand the whole of our thoughts, and show extraordinary kindness to anyone of us who is a good man and true, and hate him who is utterly evil, as one who already partakes of suffering. For we know that God, who has the privilege of the divine portion, is remote from these affections of pain and pleasure, but has a share of intelligence and knowledge in every sphere; and the heaven being filled full of live creatures, they interpret all men and all things both to one another and to the most exalted gods, because the middle creatures move both to earth and to the whole of heaven with a lightly rushing motion. The kind which is of water,<sup>3</sup> the fifth, we shall be right in representing as a semi-divine product of that element, and it is

with the guidance and care of mankind (Plato, *Laws* 713 D; Plutarch, *De genio Socr.* 588 c).

<sup>2</sup> The “journey across” seems to refer to one part of the “conveying” that daemons performed—conducting the souls of deceased human beings from earth to the abode of the gods.

<sup>3</sup> The nymphs.

ἄλλοτε δὲ ἀποκρυφθὲν ἄδηλον γιγνόμενον, θαῦμα  
κατ' ἀμυδρὰν ὄψιν παρεχόμενον. τούτων δὴ τῶν  
C πέντε ὄντως ὄντων ζώων, ὅπη τινὲς ἐνέτυχον ἡμῶν,  
ἢ καθ' ὕπνον ἐν ὀνειροπολίᾳ προστυχόντες, ἢ κατὰ  
φήμας τε καὶ μαντείας λεχθέν τισιν ἐν ἀκοαῖς  
ὑγιαίνουσιν ἢ καὶ κάμνουσιν, ἢ καὶ τελευτῇ βίου  
προστυχέσι γενομένοις, ἰδίᾳ τε καὶ δημοσίᾳ δόξας  
παραγενομένας, ὅθεν ἱερὰ πολλὰ πολλῶν γέγονε,  
τὰ δὲ γενήσεται, τούτων πάντων νομοθέτης, ὅστις  
νοῦν κέκτηται καὶ τὸν βραχύτατον, οὔποτε μὴ  
τολμήσῃ καινοτομῶν ἐπὶ θεοσέβειαν, ἥτις μὴ  
D σαφὲς ἔχει τι, τρέφαι πόλιν ἑαυτοῦ· καὶ μὴν οὐδ'  
ὦν ὁ πάτριος νόμος εἴρηκε περὶ θυσιῶν ἀποκωλύσει,  
μηδὲν τὸ παράπαν εἰδώς, ὥσπερ οὐδ' ὄν δυνατόν  
εἰδέναί τῃ θνητῇ φύσει τῶν τοιούτων πέρι. τοὺς  
δὲ ὄντως ἡμῖν φανεροὺς ὄντας θεοὺς ἄρ' οὐχ αὐτὸς  
λόγος ἔχει κακίστους εἶναι τοὺς μὴ τολμῶντας  
λέγειν ἡμῖν καὶ φανεροὺς ποιεῖν ἀνοργιάστους τε  
ὄντας ἐτέρους θεοὺς καὶ τιμὰς μὴ δεχομένους τὰς  
προσηκούσας αὐτοῖς; νῦν δὲ δὴ συμβαίνει γι-  
E γνόμενον ἅμα τὸ τοιοῦτον· οἶον γὰρ εἴ ποτέ τις  
ἡμῶν ἥλιον ἢ σελήνην ἑωρακὼς ἦν γιγνομένους  
ἐφορῶντάς τε ἡμᾶς πάντας, καὶ μὴ ἔφραξεν  
ἀδύνατος ὦν πη φράζειν, τιμῆς τε ἀμοίρους ὄντας  
ἅμα καὶ μὴ προθυμοῖτο τό γε αὐτοῦ μέρος,  
εἰς ἔντιμον χώραν καταφανεῖς ἄγων αὐτούς,  
ἐορτάς τε αὐτοῖς γίγνεσθαι ποιεῖν καὶ θυσίας,  
ἀπολαμβανόμενόν τε χρόνον ἐκάστοις μειζόνων καὶ  
ἐλαττόνων πολλακίς ἐνιαυτῶν ὥρας διανέμει, ἄρ'

<sup>1</sup> The astral gods.



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at one time seen, but at another is concealed through becoming obscure, presenting a marvel in the dimness of vision. So these five being really existent creatures, wherever any of us came upon them, either happening upon them in the dream-world of sleep, or by something spoken to persons listening in health, or equally in sickness, through ominous utterances and prophecies, or again when they have arrived at the end of life—opinions that occur to us both in private and in public, whence many sanctities of many beings have arisen, and others shall arise—in regard to all these the lawgiver who possesses even the slightest degree of mind will never dare by innovations to turn his city to a divine worship which is lacking in certainty. Nor indeed will he put a stop to sacrifices on which the ancestral custom has pronounced, when he knows nothing at all of the matter, just as it is not possible for mortal nature to know about such things. And of the gods who are really manifest to us<sup>1</sup> the same statement must surely hold—that those men are most evil who have not courage to tell and make manifest to us that these are likewise gods, but without any frenzied rites, or any tribute of the honours that are their due. But as things are, we have a strange conjunction of proceedings: for it is as though one of us should see the sun or moon being born and all of us looking on, and should utter no word through some impotence of speech, and should not also at the same time be zealous, so far as in him lay, when they lacked their share of honour, to bring them in all evidence to an honoured place, and cause festivals and sacrifices to be offered to them, and apportion to each a reserved space of time for the greater or lesser length of its

986 οὐκ ἂν κακὸς ἑαυτῷ τε καὶ ἄλλω τῷ γιγνώσκοντι  
 λεγόμενος ἐν δίκῃ συνεδόκει λέγεσθαι ποτ' ἂν;

ΚΛ. Πῶς γὰρ οὐκ, ὦ ξένη; κάκιστος μὲν οὖν.

ΑΘ. Τοῦτο τοίνυν, ὦ Κλεινία φίλε, περὶ ἐμὲ νῦν  
 γιγνόμενον ἴσθι φανερώς.

ΚΛ. Πῶς λέγεις;

ΑΘ. Ἴστε ὀκτὼ δυνάμεις τῶν περὶ ὄλον οὐρανὸν  
 γεγυῖας ἀδελφὰς ἀλλήλων, ὧν καθεώρακα ἐγώ·  
 καὶ οὐδὲν μέγα διαπέπραγμαί. ῥάδιον γὰρ καὶ  
 Β ἑτέρω· τούτων δ' εἰσὶ τρεῖς αὐταί, μία μὲν ἡλίου,  
 μία δὲ σελήνης, μία δὲ τῶν [πλανητῶν]<sup>1</sup> ἄστρον,  
 ὧν ἐμνήσθημεν ὀλίγον ἔμπροσθεν· πέντε δὲ ἕτεραι.  
 ταύτας δὴ πάσας καὶ τούτους τοὺς ἐν ταύταισιν  
 εἶτε αὐτοὺς ἰόντας εἶτε φερομένους ἐν ὀχήμασι  
 πορεύεσθαι ταύτη, μηδεὶς ἄλλως ποτὲ νομίση  
 πάντων ἡμῶν, ὡς οἱ μὲν θεοὶ εἰσιν αὐτῶν, οἱ δ'  
 οὔ, μηδ' ὡς οἱ μὲν γνήσιοι, οἱ δὲ τοιοῦτοί τινες,  
 οἷους οὐδὲ θέμις εἰπεῖν ἡμῶν οὐδενί, πάντες δὲ  
 δὴ πάντας λέγωμέν τε καὶ φῶμεν ἀδελφούς τ'  
 C εἶναι καὶ ἐν ἀδελφαῖς μοίραις, καὶ τιμὰς ἀπο-  
 διδῶμεν μὴ τῷ μὲν ἐνιαυτόν, τῷ δὲ μῆνα, τοῖς δὲ  
 μήτε τινὰ μοῖραν τάττωμεν μήτε τινὰ χρόνον, ἐν ᾧ  
 διεξέρχεται τὸν αὐτοῦ πόλον, συναποτελῶν κόσμον,  
 ὃν ἔταξε λόγος ὁ πάντων θειότατος ὀρατόν· ὃν ὁ  
 μὲν εὐδαίμων πρῶτον μὲν ἐθαύμασεν, ἔπειτα δὲ  
 ἔρωτα ἔσχε τοῦ καταμαθεῖν ὅποσα θνητῇ φύσει

<sup>1</sup> πλανητῶν secl. Burnet.

<sup>1</sup> "Year" is used here for "circuit."

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Plato, *Tim.* 38 ff, where God is said to have made, besides the fixed stars, the sun, the moon, and the five planets—Venus, Mercury, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars—for the generation of time.

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year,<sup>1</sup> as may happen : would it not be agreed both by himself and by another who observed it that he would justly be described as an evil man ?

CL. To be sure he would, my good sir ; nay, most evil.

ATH. Well then, this, my dear Cleinias, is what, you may take it, has evidently happened to me now.

CL. How do you mean ?

ATH. You know that there are eight powers of those contained in the whole heaven which are cognate to each other : these I have observed, and it is no great achievement ; for it is easy enough for anybody. Three of them are that of the sun, for one, that of the moon for another, and a third that of the stars which we mentioned a little while ago ; and there are five others besides.<sup>2</sup> Now in regard to all these and those beings who either have their own motion in these, or are borne in vehicles so as to make their progress thus, let none of us all ever idly suppose that some of them are gods, while others are not, or that some are genuine, while others are of a certain kind which it is not permissible to any of us even to express ; but let us all declare and say that they are all cognate and have cognate lots, and let us render them due honour, not by giving to one a year, to another a month ; but to none of them let us appoint either a certain lot or a certain time in which it travels through its particular orbit, completing the system which the divinest reason of all<sup>3</sup> appointed to be visible. This first the man who is blest admires, and then he feels a passion for understanding so much as is possible for mortal nature, believing that thus he

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* the supreme deity of Plato's *Timæus*.

δυνατά, ἡγούμενος ἄρισθ' οὕτως εὐτυχέστατά τε  
 D διάξειν τὸν βίον τελευτήσας τε εἰς τόπους ἤξειν  
 προσήκοντας ἀρετῇ, καὶ μεμνημένος ἀληθῶς τε  
 καὶ ὄντως, μεταλαβὼν φρονήσεως εἰς ὧν μίας,  
 τὸν ἐπίλοιπον χρόνον θεωρὸς τῶν καλλίστων  
 γενόμενος, ὅσα κατ' ὄψιν, διατελεῖ. νῦν δὲ τὸ  
 E τίνες· οὐ γὰρ μήποτε φανῶμεν ψευδεῖς. βεβαίως  
 δὴ δισχυρίζομαι τό γε τοσοῦτον. λέγω γὰρ  
 πάλιν ὀκτῶ μὲν εἶναι, τῶν δὲ ὀκτῶ τρεῖς μὲν  
 εἰρήσθαι, πέντε δ' ἔτι λοιπὰς. ἡ τετάρτη δὲ φορά  
 καὶ διέξοδος ἅμα καὶ πέμπτη τάχει μὲν ἡλίῳ  
 σχεδὸν ἴση, καὶ οὔτε βραδυτέρα οὔτε θάπτων τό  
 γ' ἐπίπαν. δεῖ<sup>1</sup> τούτων τριῶν ὄντων τὸν νοῦν  
 ἰκανὸν ἔχοντα ἡγεῖσθαι. λέγωμεν δὲ ταύτας ἡλίου  
 τ' εἶναι καὶ ἑωσφόρου, καὶ τρίτου, ὡς μὲν ὀνόματι  
 φράζειν οὐκ ἔστι διὰ τὸ μὴ γινώσκεισθαι, τούτου  
 δ' αἴτιος ὁ πρῶτος ταῦτα κατιδὼν βάρβαρος ὢν·  
 παλαιὸς γὰρ δὴ τρόπος ἔθρεψε τοὺς πρώτους  
 987 ταῦτα ἐννοήσαντας διὰ τὸ κάλλος τῆς θερινῆς  
 ὥρας, ἣν Αἴγυπτός τε Συρία δ' ἰκανῶς κέκτηται,  
 φανεροὺς μὲν ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν ἀστέρας ἀεὶ σύμπαντας  
 καθορῶντας, ἅτε νεφῶν καὶ ὑδάτων ἀπόπροσθεν  
 ἀεὶ τοῦ κόσμου κεκτημένους· ὅθεν καὶ πανταχόσε  
 καὶ δεῦρ' ἐξήκει, βεβασανισμένα χρόνῳ μυριετῆ τε  
 καὶ ἀπείρῳ. διὸ θαρροῦντα χρῆ ταῦτα εἰς νόμους  
 θέσθαι· τὸ γὰρ μὴ τίμια τὰ θεῖα εἶναι, τὰ δὲ τίμια,  
 B σαφῶς οὐκ ἐμφρόνων· ὅτι δὲ οὐκ ὀνόματα ἔσχηκε,

<sup>1</sup> δεῖ Burnet: ἀεὶ mss.

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* sun, moon, and fixed stars.

<sup>2</sup> Venus (or Lucifer); *cf.* Plato, *Tim.* 38 D.

<sup>3</sup> Mercury.

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will best and most happily pass through life, and at the end of his days will arrive at regions meet for virtue ; and having been truly and really initiated, and won his individual intelligence, and become for the rest of time a spectator of what is fairest, so far as sight can go, in this state he continues. And now after this it remains for us to say how many and who these beings are : for we shall never be found to have spoken falsely. Thus far, at least, I asseverate with certainty : I say, once more, that there are eight of them, and that while three<sup>1</sup> of the eight have been told, five yet remain. The fourth<sup>2</sup> in motion and transit together, and the fifth,<sup>3</sup> are almost equal to the sun in speed, and on the whole are neither slower nor swifter. These being three, must be so regarded by him who has sufficient mind. So let us speak of them as powers of the sun and of Lucifer, and of a third,<sup>3</sup> such that we cannot express it in a name because it is not known ; and he is to blame for this who first beheld these things, since he was a foreigner : for it was an ancient custom that nurtured those who first remarked these things owing to the fairness of the summer season which Egypt and Syria amply possess, so that they constantly beheld the whole mass, one may say, of stars revealed to their sight, since they had got them continually without obstruction of clouds and rains in the sky ; whence they have emerged in every direction and in ours likewise, after having been examined for thousands of years, nay, for an infinite time. And therefore we should not hesitate to include them in the scope of our laws ; for to have divine things lacking honour, while other things are honoured, is clearly a sign of witlessness ; and as to their having got no names, the cause of

τὴν γε αἰτίαν χρὴ λέγεσθαι ταύτην. ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἐπωνυμίαν εἰλήφασι θεῶν· ὁ μὲν γὰρ ἑωσφόρος ἔσπερος τε ὦν αὐτὸς Ἀφροδίτης εἶναι σχεδὸν ἔχει λόγον καὶ μάλα Συρίῳ νομοθέτῃ πρέπον, ὁ δ' ὁμόδρομος ἠλίῳ τε ἅμα καὶ τούτῳ σχεδὸν Ἑρμοῦ· τρεῖς δ' ἔτι φορὰς λέγωμεν ἐπὶ δεξιὰ πορευομένων μετὰ σελήνης τε καὶ ἠλίου. ἓνα δὲ τὸν ὄγδοον χρὴ λέγειν, ὃν μάλιστά τις ἀν<sup>1</sup> κόσμον προσαγορεύοι, ὃς ἐναντίος ἐκείνοις σύμπασιν πορεύεται, <οὐκ<sup>2</sup> ἄγων τοὺς ἄλλους, ὡς γε ἀνθρώποις φαίνοιτ' ἀν ὀλίγα τούτων εἰδόσιν. ὅσα δὲ ἱκανῶς ἴσμεν, C ἀνάγκη λέγειν καὶ λέγομεν· ἢ γὰρ ὄντως οὕσα σοφία ταύτη πη φαίνεται τῷ καὶ σμικρὰ συννοίας ὀρθῆς θείας τε μετειληφότι. λοιποὶ δὴ τρεῖς ἀστέρες, ὦν εἷς μὲν βραδυτῆτι διαφέρων αὐτῶν ἐστὶ, Κρόνου δ' αὐτὸν τινες ἐπωνυμίαν φθέγγονται· τὸν δὲ μετὰ τοῦτον βραδυτῆτι λέγειν χρὴ Διός· Ἄρεως δὲ ὁ μετὰ τοῦτον, πάντων δὲ οὗτος ἐρυθρώτατον ἔχει χρῶμα. χαλεπὸν δὲ οὐδὲν τούτων κατανοῆσαι D τινὰ φράζοντός τινος, ἀλλὰ μαθόντα, ὡς λέγομεν, ἠγείσθαι δεῖ.

Τόδε γε μὴν διανοηθῆναι χρὴ πάντ' ἀνδρα Ἑλληνα, ὡς τόπον ἔχομεν τὸν τῶν Ἑλλήνων πρὸς ἀρετὴν ἐν τοῖς σχεδὸν ἄριστον· τὸ δ' ἐπαινετὸν

<sup>1</sup> ἀν Burnet: ἀνω mss.

<sup>2</sup> οὐκ add. Burnet.

<sup>1</sup> Lucifer, or Hesperus, may for its beauty be connected with Aphrodite (and so got the further name of Venus).

<sup>2</sup> The cult of Aphrodite flourished among all the eastern peoples.

<sup>3</sup> Venus.

<sup>4</sup> Hermes being the god of escort or attendance (whence this "power" came to be known as Mercury).

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it should be stated as we have done. For indeed they have received titles of gods : thus, that Lucifer, or Hesperus (which is the same), should almost belong to Aphrodite,<sup>1</sup> is reasonable, and quite befitting a Syrian lawgiver<sup>2</sup>; and that that which follows the same course as the sun and this<sup>3</sup> together should almost belong to Hermes.<sup>4</sup> Let us also note three motions of bodies<sup>5</sup> travelling to the right with the moon and the sun. One must be mentioned, the eighth,<sup>6</sup> which we may especially address as the world-order, and which travels in opposition to the whole company of the others, not impelling them, as might appear to mankind in the scant knowledge that they have of these matters. But we are bound to state, and do state, so much as adequate knowledge tells us. For real wisdom shows herself in some such way as this to him who has got even a little share of right and divine meditation. And now there remain three stars, of which one is distinguished from the others by its slowness, and some speak of it under the title of Saturn; the next after it in slowness is to be cited as Jupiter; and the next after this, as Mars, which has the ruddiest hue of all. Nothing in all this is hard to understand when someone expresses it; but it is through learning, as we declare, that one must believe it.

But there is one point which every Greek should bear in mind—that of all Greeks we have a situation which is about the most favourable to human excellence.<sup>7</sup> The praiseworthy thing in it that we have to

<sup>5</sup> Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

<sup>6</sup> Here, after the sun, moon, Venus, Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn, we return to the sphere of the fixed stars (mentioned as the “third power” in 986 B).

<sup>7</sup> Cf. Plato, *Tim.* 24 c.

αὐτοῦ χρὴ λέγειν ὅτι μέσος ἂν εἴη χειμώνων τε καὶ τῆς θερινῆς φύσεως, ἢ δ' ὑστεροῦσα ἡμῖν εἰς τὸ θερινὸν φύσις τοῦ περι τὸν ἐκεῖ τόπον, ὅπερ εἶπομεν, ὑστερον αὐ<sup>1</sup> παραδέδωκε τὸ τούτων τῶν θεῶν τοῦ κόσμου κατανόημα. λάβωμεν δὲ ὡς

Ε ὅ τί περ ἂν Ἑλληνες βαρβάρων παραλάβωσι, κάλλιον τοῦτο εἰς τέλος ἀπεργάζονται· καὶ δὴ καὶ περὶ τὰ νῦν λεγόμενα ταῦτόν δεῖ διανοηθῆναι τοῦτο, ὡς χαλεπὸν μὲν πάντα τὰ τοιαῦτα ἀναμφισβητήτως ἐξευρίσκειν, πολλὴ δ' ἐλπίς ἅμα καὶ

988 καλὴ κάλλιον καὶ δικαιοτέρον ὄντως τῆς ἐκ τῶν βαρβάρων ἐλθούσης φήμης τε ἅμα καὶ θεραπείας πάντων τούτων τῶν θεῶν ἐπιμελήσεσθαι τοὺς Ἑλληνας, παιδείαις τε καὶ ἐκ Δελφῶν μαντείαις χρωμένους καὶ πάσῃ τῇ κατὰ νόμους θεραπείᾳ. τόδε δὲ μηδεὶς ποτε φοβηθῆ τῶν Ἑλλήνων, ὡς οὐ χρὴ περὶ τὰ θεῖα ποτε πραγματεύεσθαι θνητοὺς ὄντας, πᾶν δὲ τούτῳ διανοηθῆναι τούναντίον, ὡς οὔτε ἄφρον ἐστὶ ποτε τὸ θεῖον οὔτε ἀγνοεῖ που

Β τὴν ἀνθρωπίνην φύσιν, ἀλλ' οἶδεν, ὅτι διδάσκοντος αὐτοῦ συνακολουθήσει καὶ μαθήσεται τὰ διδασκόμενα· ὅτι δὲ διδάσκει τοῦτο αὐτὸ ἡμᾶς, μανθάνομεν δὲ ἡμεῖς ἀριθμὸν τε καὶ ἀριθμεῖν, οἶδε δὴπου· πάντων γὰρ ἀφρονέστατον ἂν εἴη τοῦτο ἀγνοοῦν· τὸ λεγόμενον γὰρ ἂν ὄντως αὐτὸ αὐτὸ ἀγνοοῖ, χαλεπαῖνον τῷ δυναμένῳ μανθάνειν, ἀλλ' οὐ συγχαῖρον ἄνευ φθόνου διὰ θεὸν ἀγαθῶ γενομένῳ. λόγον δὴ καὶ πολὺν καὶ καλὸν ἔχει, τότε

Γ μὲν, ὅτε περὶ θεῶν ἦν ἀνθρώποις διανοήματα πρῶτα, ὡς τ' ἐγένοντο οἰοί τ' ἐγίγνοντο καὶ ὅθεν<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> αὐ Ast: αὐτοῖς mss.

<sup>2</sup> ὅθεν Hermann: ὁ μὲν mss.

<sup>1</sup> Syria and Egypt; cf. 987 A.



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mention is that it may be taken as midway between a wintry and a summery climate; and our climate, being inferior in its summer to that in the region over there,<sup>1</sup> as we said, has been so much later in imparting the cognizance of these cosmic deities. And let us note that whatever Greeks acquire from foreigners is finally turned by them into something nobler; and moreover the same thing must be borne in mind regarding our present statements—that although it is hard to discover everything of this kind beyond dispute, there is hope, both strong and noble, that a really nobler and juster respect than is in the combined repute and worship which came from foreigners will be paid to all these gods by the Greeks, who have the benefit of their various education, their prophecies from Delphi, and the whole system of worship under their laws. And let none of the Greeks ever be apprehensive that being mortals we should never have dealings with divine affairs<sup>2</sup>; they should rather be of the quite opposite opinion, that the divine is never either unintelligent or in any ignorance of human nature, but knows that if it teaches us we shall follow its guidance and learn what is taught us. That it so teaches us, and that we learn number and numeration, it knows of course: for it would be most utterly unintelligent if it were ignorant of this; since it would truly, as the saying is, be ignorant of itself, vexed with that which was able to learn, instead of whole-heartedly rejoicing with one who became good by God's help. And indeed there is much good reason to suppose that formerly, when men had their first conceptions of how the gods came to exist and with what qualities,

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Plato, *Laws*, vii. 821 A.

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καὶ οἷας μετεχειρίζοντο πράξεις, μὴ κατὰ νοῦν τοῖς σώφροσι λέγεσθαι μηδὲ φίλως, μηδ' ὡς οἱ δεῦτεροι, ἐν οἷς πρεσβύτατα μὲν τὰ πυρὸς ἐλέγετο καὶ ὕδατος καὶ τῶν ἄλλων σωμάτων, ὕστερα δὲ τὰ τῆς θαυμαστῆς ψυχῆς, καὶ φορὰ κρείττων καὶ τιμιωτέρα, ἣν τὸ σῶμα εἴληχε φέρειν αὐτό τε ἑαυτὸ θερμότητι καὶ ψύξει καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς τοιούτοις, ἀλλ'

D οὐ ψυχὴ σῶμά τε καὶ ἑαυτήν· νῦν δ' ὅτε λέγομεν ψυχὴν μὲν, ἄνπερ ἐν σώματι γένηται, θαῦμα οὐδὲν κινεῖν τε καὶ περιφέρειν τοῦτο καὶ ἑαυτήν, οὐδ' ἡμῖν ἀπιστεῖ ψυχὴ κατὰ λόγον οὐδένα ὡς βάρος οὐδὲν περιφέρειν δυναμένη. διὸ καὶ νῦν ἡμῶν ἀξιούντων, ψυχῆς οὔσης αἰτίας τοῦ ὅλου, καὶ πάντων μὲν τῶν ἀγαθῶν ὄντων τοιούτων, τῶν δὲ αὐτῶν φλαύρων τοιούτων ἄλλων, τῆς μὲν φορᾶς πάσης

E καὶ κινήσεως ψυχὴν αἰτίαν εἶναι θαῦμα οὐδέν, τὴν δ' ἐπὶ τὰγαθὸν φορὰν καὶ κίνησιν τῆς ἀρίστης ψυχῆς εἶναι, τὴν δ' ἐπὶ τοῦναντίον ἐναντίαν, νενικηκέναι δεῖ καὶ νικᾶν τὰ ἀγαθὰ τὰ μὴ τοιαῦτα.

Ταῦτα ἡμῖν εἴρηται πάντα κατὰ τὴν τῶν ἀνοσίων τιμωρὸν [δὲ]<sup>1</sup> δίκην· περὶ δὲ δὴ τὸ δοκιμαζόμενον οὐχ οἶόν τε ἡμῖν ἀπιστεῖν, ὡς οὐ δεῖ τόν γε ἀγαθὸν 989 σοφὸν ἡμᾶς ἡγεῖσθαι, τὴν δὲ σοφίαν ταύτην, ἣν ζητοῦμεν πάλαι, ἴδωμεν ἂν ποτ' ἄρα ἐπινοήσωμεν ἢ κατὰ παιδείαν ἢ κατὰ τέχνην, ἣντινα τοῦ γιγνώσκειν ἐνδεεῖς ὄντες τῶν δικαίων, ἀγνώμονες ἂν

<sup>1</sup> δὲ mss. : δὴ Stallbaum.

<sup>1</sup> These later people, instead of attributing the highest power to the divine stars, attributed it to the ordinary physical forces; cf. Plato, *Laws*, x. 888 ff.

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and whence, and to what kind of actions they proceeded, they were spoken of in a manner not approved or welcomed by the wise, nor were even the views of those who came later, among whom the greatest dignity was given to fire and water and the other elements, while the wonderful soul was accounted inferior; and higher and more honoured with them was a motion assigned to the body for moving itself by heat and chills and everything of that kind, instead of that which the soul had for moving both the body and itself.<sup>1</sup> But now that we account it no marvel that the soul, once it is in the body, should stir and move about this and itself, neither does our soul on any reckoning mistrust her power of moving about any weight. And therefore, since we now claim that, as the soul is cause of the whole, and all good things are causes of like things, while on the other hand evil things are causes of other things like them, it is no marvel that soul should be cause of all motion and stirring—that the motion and stirring towards the good are the function of the best soul, and those to the opposite are the opposite<sup>2</sup>—it must be that good things have conquered and conquer things that are not their like.

All this we have stated in accordance with justice, which wreaks vengeance on the impious: but now, as regards the matter under examination, it is not possible for us to disbelieve that we must deem the good man to be wise; and let us see if we may perhaps be able, either by education or by art, to perceive this wisdom which we have all this while been seeking; for if we fall behind the just in failing to know it, our condition will be that of ignorant

<sup>2</sup> The evil soul is just hinted at; *cf.* Plato, *Laws*, x. 896-7.

εἶμεν ὄντες τοιοῦτοι. δοκοῦμεν δὴ μοι, καὶ λεκτέον· ἄνω γὰρ καὶ κάτω ζητῶν, ἧ μοι καταφανῆς γέγονε, πειράσομαι δὴλην ὑμῖν αὐτὴν ἀποτελεῖν. τὸ δὴ μέγιστον ἀρετῆς οὐ καλῶς πραττόμενον ἡμῖν γέγονεν αἴτιον, ὡς ἄρτι σημαίνειν ἐκ τῶν εἰρημένων μοι σφόδρα δοκεῖ. μείζον

B μὲν γὰρ ἀρετῆς μηδεὶς ἡμᾶς ποτὲ πείση τῆς εὐσεβείας εἶναι τῷ θνητῷ γένει· τοῦτο δ' ὅτι δι' ἀμαθίαν τὴν μεγίστην ἐν ταῖς ἀρίσταις φύσεσιν οὐ γέγονε, λεκτέον. ἀρισται δ' εἰσὶν αἱ χαλεπώτατα μὲν ἂν γενόμεναι, μέγιστον δὲ ὄφελος, ἂν γίνωνται· τά τε γὰρ τῆς βραδείας τε καὶ τῆς ἐναντίας φύσεως μετρίως ἀποδεχομένη ψυχὴ καὶ πράως εὐκόλος ἂν εἴη, τὴν τε ἀνδρείαν ἀγαμένη, καὶ πρὸς τὸ σωφρονεῖν εὐπειθής, καὶ τό γε μέγιστον, ἐν ταύταις

C ταῖς φύσεσι δυναμένη μαθάνειν καὶ μνήμων οὔσα, εὖ μάλα χαίρειν τοῦτοις αὐτοῖς δύναιτ' ἂν φιλομαθῆς ὥστ' εἶναι. ταῦτα γὰρ οὔτε ῥάδια φύεσθαι, γενόμενά τε, καὶ τροφῆς καὶ παιδείας τυχόντα, ἧς δεῖ, τοὺς πλείστους αὐτῶν καὶ χείρους κατέχειν ὀρθότατα δύναιτ' ἂν τῷ φρονεῖν καὶ πράττειν καὶ λέγειν περὶ θεοῦς ἕκαστα, ὡς δεῖ τε καὶ ὅτε δεῖ, περὶ θυσίας τε καὶ καθαρμῶν τῶν περὶ θεοῦς τε καὶ ἀνθρώπων, οὐ σχήμασι τεχνά-

D ζοντας, ἀλλὰ ἀληθείᾳ τιμῶντας ἀρετὴν, ὃ δὴ καὶ μέγιστόν ἐστι συμπάντων πάση τῇ πόλει. τοῦτο δὴ οὖν τὸ μέρος εἶναί φαμεν φύσει κυριώτατον

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Plato, *Politicus*, 307 v ff., where the danger of an extreme development of such qualities as temperance, calmness, slowness, and of their opposites in the citizens of a state is expounded.

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persons. Such, then, seems our case to me, and I must say so : for I have sought this wisdom high and low, and so far as it has been revealed to me I will try to render it plain to you. Now the fact that the greatest part of virtue is not properly practised is the cause of our condition, as is just now indicated—it seems clear to me—by what has been said. For let no one ever persuade us that there is a greater part of virtue, for the race of mortals, than piety ; and I must say it is owing to the greatest stupidity that this has not appeared in the best natures. And the best are they which can only become so with the greatest difficulty, and the benefit is greatest if they do become so : for a soul that admits of slowness and the opposite inclination moderately and gently will be good-tempered<sup>1</sup> ; and if it admires courage, and is easily persuaded to temperance, and, most important of all, is enabled by these natural gifts to learn and has a good memory, it will be able to rejoice most fully in these very things, so as to be a lover of learning. For these things are not easily engendered, but when once they are begotten, and receive due nourishment and education, they will be able to restrain the greater number of men, even the worse among us, in the most correct way by our every thought, every action, and every word about the gods, in due manner and due season, as regards both sacrifices and purifications in matters concerning gods and men alike, so that we are contriving no life of pretence, but truly honouring virtue, which indeed is the most important of all business for the whole state. That section<sup>2</sup> of us, then, we say is naturally the most

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* those who possess the “natural gifts” mentioned in 989 B.

καὶ δυνατὸν ὡς οἶόν τε κάλλιστα καὶ ἄριστα μαθεῖν, εἰ διδάσκοι τις· ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἂν διδάξειεν, εἰ μὴ θεὸς ὑφηγοῖτο· εἰ δ' οὖν διδάσκοι, κατὰ τρόπον δὲ μὴ δρῶ τὸ τοιοῦτον, κρεῖττον μὴ μαθάνειν· ὁμως δ' ἐκ τῶν νῦν λεγομένων ἀνάγκη μαθεῖν ταῦτα καὶ ἐμὲ λέγειν τὴν τοιαύτην τε καὶ ἀρίστην φύσιν. πειρώμεθα δὴ τῷ τε λόγῳ διεξελθεῖν ἅ τ' ἐστὶ καὶ οἷα καὶ ὡς δεῖ μαθάνειν, κατὰ δυνάμιν τὴν τ' ἐμὴν τοῦ λέγοντος καὶ τὴν τῶν δυναμένων

990 εἰσακοῦσαι, θεοσεβείας ὧτινι τρόπῳ τις τίνα μαθήσεται. σχεδὸν μὲν οὖν ἐστὶν ἄτοπον ἀκούσαντι· τὸ δ' ὄνομα αὐτοῦ λέγομεν ἡμεῖς γε, ὃ τις οὐκ ἂν ποτε δόξειε δι' ἀπειρίαν τοῦ πράγματος, ἀστρονομίαν, ἀγνοεῖ τε, ὅτι σοφώτατον ἀνάγκη τὸν ἀληθῶς ἀστρονόμον εἶναι, μὴ τὸν καθ' Ἡσίοδον ἀστρονομοῦντα καὶ πάντας τοὺς τοιοῦτους, οἷον δυσμάς τε καὶ ἀνατολὰς ἐπεσκεμμένον, ἀλλὰ τὸν τῶν ὀκτῶ περιόδων τὰς ἑπτὰ περιόδους, διεξιούσης τὸν αὐτῶν κύκλον ἐκάστης οὕτως ὡς οὐκ

B ἂν ραδίως ποτέ πᾶσα φύσις ἱκανὴ γένοιτο θεωρῆσαι, μὴ θαυμαστῆς μετέχουσα φύσεως. ὃ νῦν εἰρήκαμεν ἐροῦμέν τε, ὡς φάμεν, ὅπη δεῖ τε καὶ ὅπως χρῶν μαθάνειν· πρῶτον δ' ἡμῖν τόδε λεγέσθω.

Σελήνη μὲν περίοδον τὴν αὐτῆς τάχιστα διέξεισιν, ἄγουσα μῆνα καὶ πανσέληνον πρώτην· δεύτερον δὲ κατανοεῖν δεῖ τὸν ἥλιον, τροπὰς ἄγοντα διὰ πάσης τῆς αὐτοῦ περιόδου, καὶ τούτῳ τοὺς συνδρόμους· ἵνα δὲ μὴ πολλάκις ταῦτα περὶ τῶν αὐ-

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* of the sun, the moon, and the five planets; *cf.* 987 B. With the astronomy and mathematics of the rest of the *Epinomis cf.* Plato, *Laws*, vii. 818-820.

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competent, and supremely able to learn the best and noblest lessons that it may be taught : but it cannot get this teaching either, unless God gives his guidance. If, however, it should be so taught, but should fail in some way to do accordingly, it were better for it not to learn. Nevertheless it follows of necessity from our present statements, that I agree that the nature which is of this kind, and the best, should learn certain things. Let us try, then, to set forth in our statement what things these are, and of what kind, and how one should learn—so far as our ability permits both me the speaker and those who are able to hearken—in what manner one will learn the proper reverence of the gods. It is, indeed, a rather strange thing to hear ; but the name that we, at any rate, give it—one that people would never approve, from inexperience in the matter—is astronomy ; people are ignorant that he who is truly an astronomer must be wisest, not he who is an astronomer in the sense understood by Hesiod and all the rest of such writers, the sort of man who has studied settings and risings ; but the man who has studied the seven<sup>1</sup> out of the eight orbits, each travelling over its own circuit in such a manner as could not ever be easily observed by any ordinary nature, that did not partake of a marvellous nature. As to this, we have now told, and shall tell, as we profess, by what means and in what manner it ought to be learnt ; and first let us make the following statement.

The moon travels through its orbit very swiftly, bringing first the month and full-moon ; and in the second place we must remark the sun, with his turning motion through the whole of his orbit, and with him his satellites. But to avoid repeating again and

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- C τῶν διαλεγόμεθα, τὰς ἄλλας ὅσας ἐν τῷ πρόσθεν διεξήλθομεν ὁδοὺς τούτων οὐ ῥάδιον συννοεῖν, ἐπὶ δὲ ταῦτα παρασκευάζοντας φύσεις, οἷας δυνατὸν εἶναι, χρεῶν πολλὰ προδιδάσκοντα καὶ ἐθίζοντα ἀεὶ<sup>1</sup> διαπονήσασθαι παῖδα ὄντα καὶ νεανίσκον. διὸ μαθημάτων δέον ἂν εἴη· τὸ δὲ μέγιστόν τε καὶ πρῶτον καὶ ἀριθμῶν αὐτῶν, ἀλλ' οὐ σώματα ἐχόντων, ἀλλὰ ὅλης τῆς τοῦ περιττοῦ τε καὶ ἀρτίου γενέσεώς τε καὶ δυνάμεως, ὅσην παρέχεται πρὸς τὴν τῶν ὄντων φύσιν. ταῦτα
- D δὲ μαθόντι τούτοις ἐφεξῆς ἐστὶν ὃ καλοῦσι μὲν σφόδρα γελοῖον ὄνομα γεωμετρίαν, τῶν οὐκ ὄντων δὲ ὁμοίων ἀλλήλοις φύσει ἀριθμῶν ὁμοιώσις πρὸς τὴν τῶν ἐπιπέδων μοῖραν γεγονυῖά ἐστι διαφανής· ὃ δὴ θαῦμα οὐκ ἀνθρώπινον ἀλλὰ γεγονὸς θεῖον φανερόν ἂν γίγνοιτο τῷ δυναμένῳ συννοεῖν. μετὰ δὲ ταύτην τοὺς τρεῖς<sup>2</sup> ἠϋξημένους καὶ τῇ στερεᾷ φύσει ὁμοίους, τοὺς δὲ ἀνομοίους αὐτῶν γεγονότας ἑτέρα τέχνη ὁμοιοῖ, ταύτη ἦν δὴ στερεομετρίαν
- E ἐκάλεσαν οἱ προστυχεῖς αὐτῇ γεγονότες· ὃ δὲ θεῖόν τ' ἐστὶ καὶ θαυμαστόν τοῖς ἐγκαθορῶσί τε καὶ διανοουμένοις, ὡς περὶ τὸ διπλάσιον ἀεὶ στρεφομένης τῆς δυνάμεως καὶ τῆς ἐξ ἐναντίας ταύτης καθ' ἑκάστην ἀναλογίαν εἶδος καὶ γένος
- 991 ἀποτυποῦται πᾶσα ἡ φύσις. ἡ μὲν δὴ πρώτη

<sup>1</sup> ἀεὶ Burnet: δεῖ mss.

<sup>2</sup> τρεῖς Bekker: τρεῖς mss.

<sup>1</sup> Which means literally "measuring the earth"; this developed into the *arithmetical* calculation of squares, cubes, roots, etc. Cf. the account Plato gives (*Theaet.* 147 D ff.) of "quadrangular" and "equilateral" numbers, showing how the terms of geometry had to be used for arithmetic. As there was no number equal (or "like") to the "square" root of 2, recourse was had to the *geometrical* symbol of the



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again the same things on the same subjects in our discussion, the other courses of these bodies that we have previously described are not easily understood : we must rather prepare our faculties, such as they may possibly be, for these matters ; and so one must teach the pupil many things beforehand, and continually strive hard to habituate him in childhood and youth. And therefore there will be need of studies : the most important and first is of numbers in themselves ; not of those which are corporeal, but of the whole origin of the odd and the even, and the greatness of their influence on the nature of reality. When he has learnt these things, there comes next after these what they call by the very ridiculous name of *geometry*,<sup>1</sup> when it proves to be a manifest likening<sup>2</sup> of numbers not like one another by nature in respect of the province of planes ; and this will be clearly seen by him who is able to understand it to be a marvel not of human, but of divine origin. And then, after that, the numbers thrice increased and like to the solid nature, and those again which have been made unlike, he likens by another art, namely, that which its adepts called *stereometry* ; and a divine and marvelous thing it is to those who envisage it and reflect, how the whole of nature is impressed with species and class according to each analogy, as power and its opposite<sup>3</sup> continually turn upon the double. Thus diagonal of a square whose side is 1 ; and similarly “cubic” roots were reckoned with the aid of *stereometry*.

<sup>2</sup> “Likening” here means “comparing in an exact manner,” so as to obtain a ratio or proportion between numbers not directly commensurable; cf. Plato, *Laws*, viii. 820.

<sup>3</sup> “Power” is multiplication, its “opposite” is extension : 1 point doubled gives the beginning of a line ; multiplying 2 by 2 gives 4 as a square surface, and by 2 again, 8 as the cube. So (see below) we proceed “from 1 to 8.”

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τοῦ διπλασίου κατ' ἀριθμὸν ἐν πρὸς δύο κατὰ λόγον φερομένη, διπλάσιον δὲ ἢ κατὰ δύναμιν οὔσα· ἢ δ' εἰς τὸ στερεόν τε καὶ ἀπτόν πάλιν αὐ διπλάσιον, ἀφ' ἐνὸς εἰς ὀκτὼ διαπορευθεῖσα· ἢ δὲ διπλασίου μὲν εἰς μέσον, ἴσως δὲ τοῦ ἐλάττονος πλέον ἔλαττόν τε τοῦ μείζονος, τὸ δ' ἕτερον τῷ αὐτῷ μέρει τῶν ἄκρων αὐτῶν ὑπερέχον τε καὶ ὑπερεχόμενον· ἐν μέσῳ δὲ τοῦ ἕξ πρὸς τὰ  
 Β δώδεκα συνέβη τό τε ἡμιόλιον καὶ ἐπίτριτον· τούτων αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ μέσῳ ἐπ' ἀμφοτέρα στρεφόμενη τοῖς ἀνθρώποις σύμφωνον χρεῖαν καὶ σύμμετρον ἀπενείματο παιδιᾶς ῥυθμοῦ τε καὶ ἀρμονίας χάριν, εὐδαίμονι χορείᾳ Μουσῶν δεδομένη.

Ταῦτα μὲν οὖν δὴ ταύτη γιγνέσθω τε καὶ ἐχέτω σύμπαντα· τὸ δ' ἐπὶ τούτοις τέλος, εἰς θείαν γένεσιν ἅμα καὶ τὴν τῶν ὀρατῶν καλλίστην τε καὶ θειοτάτην φύσιν ἰτέον, ὅσῃν ἀνθρώποις θεὸς ἔδωκε κατιδεῖν, ἣν οὔποτε ἄνευ τῶν νῦν διειρημένων μὴ  
 C κατιδῶν ἐπεύξῃται τις ῥαστώνῃ παραλαβεῖν. πρὸς τούτοις δὲ τὸ καθ' ἐν τῷ κατ' εἶδη προσακτέον ἐν ἐκάσταις ταῖς συνουσίαις, ἐρωτῶντά τε καὶ ἐλέγχοντα τὰ μὴ καλῶς ῥηθέντα· πάντως γὰρ καλλίστη καὶ πρώτη βάσανος ἀνθρώποις ὀρθῶς γίγνεται, ὅσαι δὲ οὐκ οὔσαι προσποιοῦνται, ματαιότατος πόνος ἀπάντων· ἔτι δὲ τὴν ἀκρίβειαν τοῦ χρόνου ἡμῖν ληπτέον, ὡς ἀκριβῶς ἀποτελεῖ πάντα τὰ κατ' οὐρανὸν γιγνόμενα, ἵν' ὁ πιστεύσας, ὡς

<sup>1</sup> As between 3 and 6, 4 is greater than 3 by  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 3, and less than 6 by  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 6.

<sup>2</sup> There were nine Muses, and they were often conceived as dancing in company with Dionysus.

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the first analogy is of the double in point of number, passing from one to two in order of counting, and that which is according to power is double; that which passes to the solid and tangible is likewise again double, having proceeded from one to eight; but that of the double has a mean, as much more than the less as it is less than the greater, while its other mean<sup>1</sup> exceeds and is exceeded by the same portion of the extremes themselves. Between six and twelve comes the whole-and-a-half ( $9 = 6 + 3$ ) and whole-and-a-third ( $8 = 6 + 2$ ): turning between these very two, to one side or the other, this power (9) assigned to men an accordant and proportioned use for the purpose of rhythm and harmony in their pastimes, and has been assigned to the blessed dance of the Muses.<sup>2</sup>

In this way then let all these things come to pass, and so let them be. But as to their crowning point, we must go to divine generation and therewith the fairest and divinest nature of visible things, so far as God granted the vision of it to men; a vision that none of us may ever boast of having received at his leisure without the conditions here laid down. And besides these requirements, one must refer the particular thing to its generic form in our various discussions, questioning and disproving what has been wrongly stated; for it<sup>3</sup> is rightly found to be altogether the finest and first of tests for the use of men, while any that pretend to be tests, without being so, are the vainest of all labours. And further, we must mark the exactness of time, how exactly it completes all the processes of the heavens, in order that he who is convinced of the truth of the statement

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* Plato's method of dialectic; see General Introduction.

D ὁ λόγος ἀληθῆς γέγονεν, ὅτι πρεσβύτερόν τ' ἐστὶν ἅμα καὶ θειότερον ψυχῇ σώματος, ἠγήσασθαι ἂν παγκάλως τε καὶ ἰκανῶς εἰρήσθαι τὸ θεῶν εἶναι πάντα πλέα καὶ μηδέποτε λήθη μηδὲ ἀμελεία τῶν κρειττόνων ἡμᾶς παρωλιγωρῆσθαι. νοητέον δ' ἐστὶ περὶ πάντα τὰ τοιαῦτα τόδε, ὡς, ἔαν μὲν τις ἕκαστα τούτων ὀρθῶς λαμβάνη, μέγ' ὄφελος γίγνεται τῷ παραλαμβάνοντι κατὰ τρόπον, εἰ δὲ μή, θεὸν ἄμεινον αἰεὶ καλεῖν· ὁ δὲ τρόπος ὅδε·

E ἀνάγκη γὰρ τό γε τοσοῦτον φράζειν· πᾶν διάγραμμα ἀριθμοῦ τε σύστημα καὶ ἀρμονίας σύστασιν ἅπασαν τῆς τε τῶν ἄστρων περιφορᾶς τὴν ὁμολογίαν οὔσαν μίαν ἀπάντων ἀναφανῆναι δεῖ τῷ κατὰ τρόπον μαθάνοντι, ἀναφανήσεται δέ, ἂν, ὃ λέγομεν, ὀρθῶς τις εἰς ἓν βλέπων μαθάνῃ·  
 992 δεσμὸς γὰρ πεφυκῶς πάντων τούτων εἰς ἀναφανήσεται διανοουμένοις· εἰ δ' ἄλλως πως ταῦτα μεταχειριεῖται τις, τύχην δεῖ καλεῖν, ὥσπερ καὶ λέγομεν. οὐ γὰρ ἄνευ γε τούτων μήποτε τις ἐν πόλεσιν εὐδαίμων γένηται φύσις, ἀλλ' οὗτος ὁ τρόπος, αὕτη ἢ τροφή, ταῦτα τὰ μαθήματα, εἴτε χαλεπὰ εἴτε ῥάδια, ταύτη πορευτέον· ἀμελήσαι δὲ οὐ θεμιτόν ἐστι θεῶν, καταφανοῦς γενομένης τῆς πάντων αὐτῶν κατὰ τρόπον λεγομένης φήμης  
 B εὐτυχοῦς. τὸν δὲ σύμπαντα ταῦτα οὕτως εἰληφότα, τοῦτον λέγω τὸν ἀληθέστατα σοφώτατον· ὃν καὶ δισχυρίζομαι παίζων καὶ σπουδάζων ἅμα, ὅτε θανάτῳ τις τῶν τοιούτων τὴν αὐτοῦ μοῖραν

<sup>1</sup> ἢ Theo: om. mss.

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* we must become aware of a single, unifying scheme of proportion running through geometrical figures and proportions ("diagrams"), arithmetical proportions ("systems

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which has been made—that the soul is at once older and more divine than the body—might believe it a most admirable and satisfactory saying that all things are full of gods, and that we have never been disregarded in the least through any forgetfulness or neglect in our superiors. And our view about all such matters must be that, if one conceives of each of them aright, it turns out a great boon to him who receives it in a proper way; but failing this, he had better always call it God. The way is this—for it is necessary to explain it thus far: every diagram, and system of number, and every combination of harmony, and the agreement of the revolution of the stars must be made manifest as one through all<sup>1</sup> to him who learns in the proper way, and will be made manifest if, as we say, a man learns aright by keeping his gaze on unity; for it will be manifest to us, as we reflect, that there is one bond naturally uniting all these things: but if one goes about it in some other way, one must call it Fortune, as we also put it. For never, without these lessons, will any nature be happy in our cities: no, this is the way, this the nurture, these the studies, whether difficult or easy, this the path to pursue: to neglect the gods is not permissible, when it has been made manifest that the fame of them, stated in proper terms, hits the mark. And the man who has acquired all these things in this manner is he whom I account the most truly wisest: of him I also assert, both in jest and in earnest, that when one of his like completes his allotted span at death, I would say if he

of number”), harmonic proportions (“combinations of harmony”)—corresponding to square, line and cube referred to in 991 A—and the rotations of the stars.

ἀναπλήσει, σχεδὸν ἕάνπερ ἔτ' ἀποθανῶν ἦ, μήτε μεθέξειν ἔτι πολλῶν τότε καθάπερ νῦν αἰσθήσεων, μιᾶς τε μοίρας μετειληφότα μόνον καὶ ἐκ πολλῶν ἓνα γεγονότα, εὐδαιμονά τε ἔσσεσθαι καὶ σοφώτατον ἅμα καὶ μακάριον, εἴτε τις ἐν ἡπείροις εἴτ' ἐν νήσοις μακάριος ὢν ζῆ, κακείνον μεθέξειν

C τῆς τοιαύτης αἰεὶ τύχης, κείτε δημοσία τις ἐπιτηδεύσας ταῦτα εἴτε ἰδία διαβιῶ, τὰ αὐτὰ καὶ ὡσαύτως αὐτὸν πράξειν παρὰ θεῶν. ὁ δὲ κατ' ἀρχάς τε ἐλέγομεν, καὶ νῦν αὐτὸς<sup>1</sup> πάρεστι λόγος ἀληθῆς ὄντως, ὡς οὐ δυνατὸν ἀνθρώποις τελέως μακαρίοις τε καὶ εὐδαιμόσι γενέσθαι πλὴν ὀλίγων, ἔστι ταῦτα ὀρθῶς εἰρημένα· ὅποσοι γὰρ θεῖοι καὶ σώφρονες ἅμα τῆς ἄλλης τε μετέχοντες ἀρετῆς φύσει, πρὸς

D δὲ τούτοις ὅσα μαθήματος ἔχεται μακαρίου πάντα εἰληφότες, ἃ δ' ἔστιν εἰρήκαμεν, τούτοισι μόνοις τὰ τοῦ δαιμονίου σύμπαντα ἱκανῶς εἴληχέ τε καὶ ἔχει. τοῖς μὲν οὖν ταῦτα οὕτω διαπονήσασιν ἰδία λέγομεν καὶ δημοσία κατὰ νόμον τίθεμεν, εἰς πρεσβύτου τέλος ἀφικομένοις τὰς μεγίστας ἀρχὰς παραδίδοσθαι δεῖν, τοὺς δ' ἄλλους τούτοις συνεπομένους εὐφημεῖν πάντας θεοὺς ἅμα καὶ πάσας, καὶ τὸν νυκτερινὸν σύλλογον ἐπὶ ταύτην τὴν σοφίαν ἱκανῶς γνόντας τε καὶ δοκιμάσαντας

E ἡμᾶς ὀρθότατα πάντα παρακαλεῖν.

<sup>1</sup> αὐτὸς Bekker : αὐτὸς MSS.

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still be dead, he will not partake any more of the various sensations than as he does now, but having alone partaken of a single lot and having become one out of many,<sup>1</sup> will be happy and at the same time most wise and blessed, whether one has a blessed life in continents or in islands; and that such a man will partake always of the like fortune, and whether his life is spent in a public or in a private practice of these studies he will get the same treatment, in just the same manner, from the gods. And what we said at the beginning, and stands now also unchanged as a really true statement, that it is not possible for men to be completely blessed and happy, except a few, has been correctly spoken. For as many as are divine and temperate also, and partakers of virtue as a whole in their nature, and have acquired besides all that pertains to blessed study—and this we have explained—are the only persons by whom all the spiritual gifts are fully obtained and held. Those then who have thus worked through all these tasks we speak of privately, and publicly establish by law, as the men to whom, when they have attained the fullness of seniority, the highest offices should be entrusted, while the rest should follow their lead, giving praise to all gods and goddesses; and we should most rightly invite the Nocturnal Council to this wisdom, when we have duly distinguished and approved all its members.

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* having been singled out as fit to receive a rare blessing reserved for a chosen few. These few (see D, below) are to form the Nocturnal Council, which was briefly suggested at the end of Plato's *Laws*.

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BORROWER'S NAME

(Loeb C.L.)

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